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# Australia's Northern Territory



AUSTRALIA'S   
**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**

“There’s this sense of peace that you find out there, it’s unlike anywhere else in Australia.”



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# Welcome

We welcome you to Australia's Northern Territory.

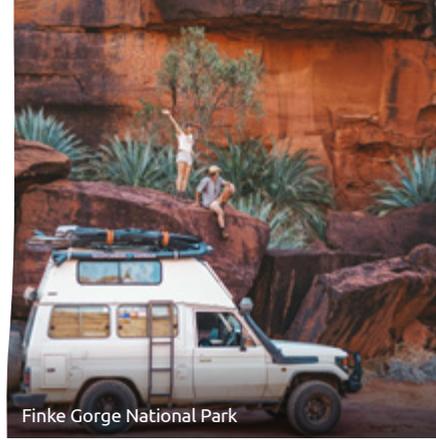
Six times the size of Britain and twice the size of California, "The Territory" is a big place with a small population of just over 200,000 people. You'll love all the space and freedom it gives you.

A new experience is waiting for you around every corner.

From Darwin's kaleidoscope sunsets and sparkling ocean, to the ancient Aboriginal rock art of Kakadu National Park and the stunning sheer escarpment of Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge, to the vibrant red heart of the Territory, where iconic Uluru (Ayers Rock) and the charming outback town of Alice Springs are waiting to meet you.

Get to know our famous natural icons: UNESCO World Heritage-listed Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks. Connect with our ancient Aboriginal culture and feel the powerful spirituality. Lose yourself in our dramatic landscapes, and find yourself alongside our people who are warm, laid back and down to earth. Travel the open roads and spot our amazing wildlife, sample our fresh food and explore the endless opportunities for adventure the Territory has in store for you.

Australia's Northern Territory is unlike any other place on Earth. Because you don't just observe it—you feel it. It's different in every sense.



Finke Gorge National Park



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park



Pudakul Aboriginal Cultural Experience



Sandy Creek Falls,  
Litchfield National Park



“There are no other places on earth that feel quite like this... you come away richer from the experience.”

# The Top End

The ‘Top End’ is what we call the tropical northern half of the Northern Territory. It has four distinct regions: Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine and Arnhem Land.

Soak up metropolitan Darwin, the Territory’s capital city, with markets at sunset, movies under the stars, cruising on the harbour or a day trip to Litchfield National Park—nature’s own water theme park.

Hit the open road to Kakadu National Park, only three hours’ drive from Darwin, to hike through escarpments and ancient Aboriginal rock art galleries, swim in natural rock pools and hear the songs of our incredible bird life in the wetlands.

Visit the Katherine regions, where the tropics meet the outback. Fish, camp, hike, swim, canoe—your options for adventure here are endless. Discover the spectacular scenery of Nitmiluk Gorge on a dinner cruise and stay in five-star luxury.

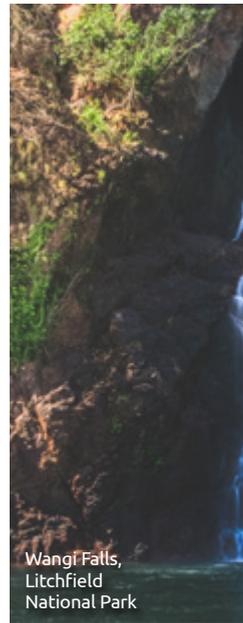
Arnhem Land is untamed and vast... spear catch a fish for lunch, learn Aboriginal sign language, listen to the didgeridoo in the lands it originates from and soak up the immense space and freedom of this spiritual place.



Sunset Boat Cruise in Darwin Harbour



Sunset at Mindil Beach



Wangi Falls,  
Litchfield  
National Park



Canoeing, Nitmiluk National Park



Top End Rivers



Cultural Experience,  
East Arnhem Land



Helicopter flight, Kakadu



“With more than 50 nationalities living here, Darwin has one of the most diverse food scenes in Australia.”



# Darwin

**Darwin** attracts travellers from all around the globe for its outdoor tropical lifestyle and welcoming, laid-back vibe.

It's Australia's smallest capital city, the most culturally diverse, with a genuine multiculturalism you can feel. Soak up Darwin's year-round warm climate at its open-air cinema, colourful beachside markets and world-class outdoor festivals.

Fill a few days (or much more) with Darwin's waterfront dining, crocodile spotting adventures, rich historical experiences and Aboriginal cultural experiences. And you'll love Darwin's famous food, with its strong Asian influence, fresh seafood and local produce.

## Access

Darwin International Airport is a major gateway to Australia for international flights, with easy connections to and from Europe, North America and Asia. For long-haul travellers, **international carriers** operate flights from the UK and Europe and the US and Canada via various ports in Australia.

Darwin is very close to Asia, so it's quick and easy to get to Singapore, Indonesia, East Timor, Japan, China and Hong Kong.



Cultural Weaving Experience



Darwin Street Art



Deckchair Cinema



Mindil Beach Sunset Markets



Sunset dining



Darwin Festival performers

## Top tips

- Taste local food and buy local art and craft at the **Mindil Beach Sunset Markets** or at weekend markets in Parap, Nightcliff and Rapid Creek.
- Come face to face with a crocodile in the '**Cage of Death**', one of the only places in the world where you can cage dive with a crocodile.
- Take in a famous Darwin sunset on a harbour cruise.
- Catch a film under the stars at the open-air **Deckchair Cinema**.
- Jump on an airboat for an exhilarating one-hour ride across Darwin Harbour.
- Learn about Darwin's rich and sometimes tragic history at the city's many **museums**.
- Catch a famous barramundi on a guided **fishing** tour.
- Explore Cullen Bay's marina, dine at one of the many waterside restaurants and cafes, and take in a top end sunset - or if you are venturing further, this is the port to catch the ferry to the Tiwi Islands or Mandorah.



“This landscape teems with life, culture and adventure.”



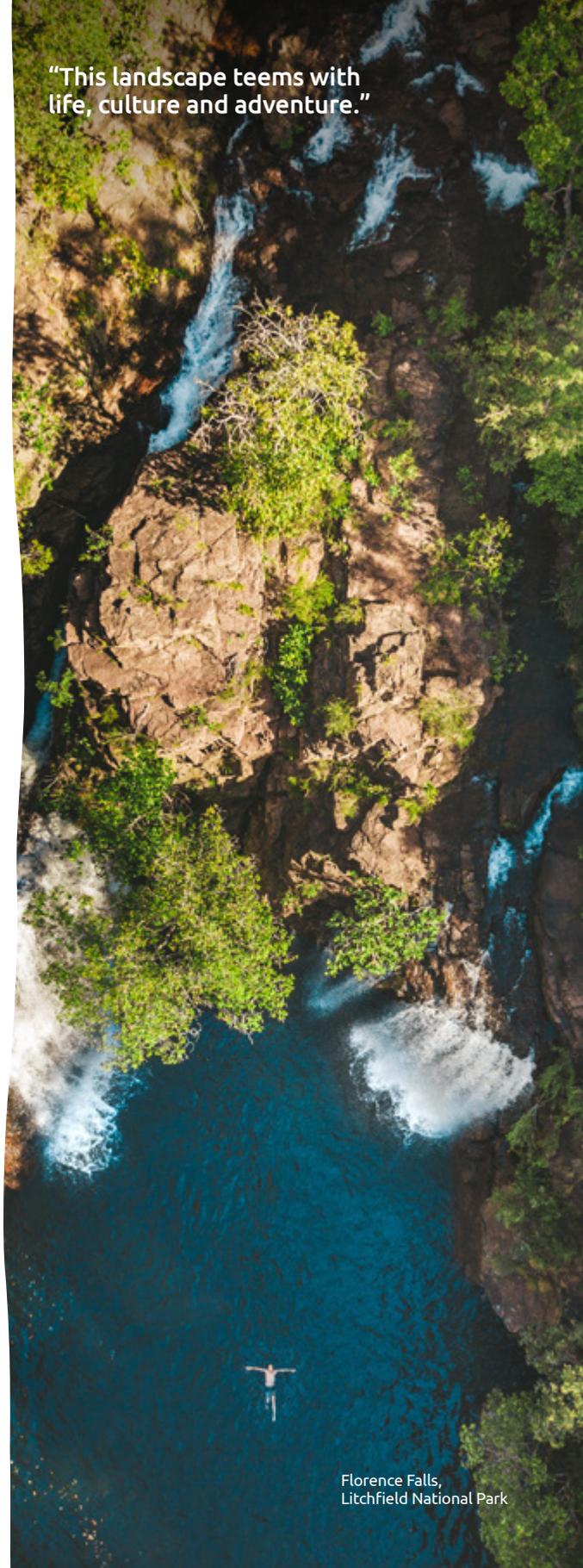
# Beyond Darwin

Darwin is the perfect base to explore the surrounding regions.

The nearby **Mary River** region’s vast wetlands are teeming with wildlife. At Litchfield National Park, swim under waterfalls, explore secret hideaways on rainforest walks and wander through the **Magnetic Termite Mounds**. Stop in at **Berry Springs Nature Park** on your way and take a dip in the refreshing pool.

A trip to the Tiwi Islands is a chance to experience our unique, rich Aboriginal culture. Join a day tour to get there by ferry or light aircraft.

You can ramp up the adventure in this region too: take to the skies in a **helicopter** or skim over waterholes in an exhilarating airboat to experience the wetlands close up. Or take your adventure further west to Bullo River for an authentic, **outback station experience**, including cattle mustering.



Florence Falls,  
Litchfield National Park

## Litchfield National Park

Just 90 minutes' drive from Darwin is **Litchfield National Park**. Pack your walking shoes and swimwear for an easy day trip to see several waterfalls hidden in monsoon rainforest plus plenty of wildlife and bird species.

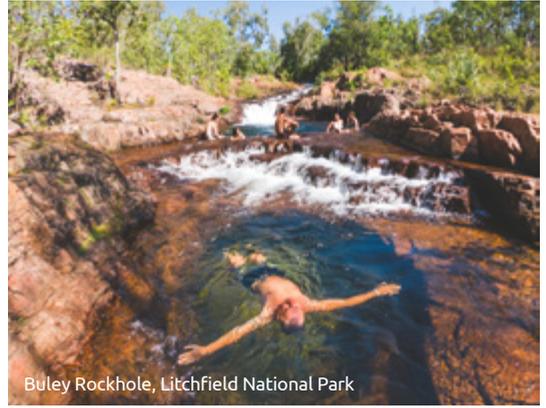
Crystal-clear swimming holes and kilometres of bushwalk trails make Litchfield a popular destination. Stay overnight in one of the designated camping areas or at nearby caravan parks to spend more time exploring. Litchfield National Park is easily accessible by car, and all roads into the main sites are sealed. You can also join one of many day tours from Darwin.

## Tiwi Islands

The **Tiwi Islands** are 80 kilometres north of Darwin. The Tiwi Aboriginal people are well known for their strong cultural connection, their welcoming friendly nature and distinctive art & craft. You can buy a special piece direct from local art centres to take home. Day tours to the Tiwi Islands from Darwin include either a two and a half hour boat ride or a 20-minute light aircraft flight from Darwin.



Wangi Falls, Litchfield National Park



Buley Rockhole, Litchfield National Park

### Top tips

- Join a **Pudukal Aboriginal Cultural Experience** to learn about traditional weapons, bush foods and medicine.
- Take a plunge in Litchfield's crystal clear waters at **Buley Rockhole, Wangi Falls** or **Florence Falls**.
- Jump in a four-wheel drive and explore **Blyth Homestead Ruins** and **The Lost City** at Litchfield.
- Join a tour on the Tiwi Islands where Tiwi women will welcome you with a traditional smoking ceremony before visiting the local art centres, which sell printed fabric, carvings, paintings and pottery.
- See crocodiles at a wildlife park or on a jumping crocodile cruise on the Adelaide River, 60 minutes from Darwin city.



Pudukal Aboriginal Cultural Experience



Tiwi Island Cultural Experience



## Katherine & surrounds

**Katherine** is the Northern Territory's third-largest town, 320 kilometres south of Darwin. The town is on the banks of the Katherine River, which flows from nearby **Nitmiluk National Park**.

Location of the famous Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge, a natural system of 13 gorges. You can explore the gorge on a guided boat cruise, by the marked bush walking trails, by hiring a canoe and paddling upstream, or from a helicopter for a bird's eye view. If you have time, relish in luxury with an overnight stay at **Cicada Lodge**.

**Leliyn/Edith Falls** is on the western side of Nitmiluk National Park, 60 kilometres north of Katherine. Here, you can swim the pandanus-fringed natural pool at the base of the falls for most of the year. Or take the 2.6-kilometre walk to the clear upper pools, which are open for swimming all year around. This region is also known for its strong Aboriginal culture, natural thermal springs, quirky outback pubs and massive rivers that are home to the famous barramundi.

By day you can explore Katherine's growing cafe scene before venturing through the local art galleries. By night, sit around the campfire and dine under the stars as you experience a traditional outback cook up at Marksies Stockman's Camp Tucker.





## Access

The Katherine region is a three-hour drive south of Darwin with sealed roads the whole way.

## Top tips

- Hear the stories of local Jawoyn people on the sunset dinner cruise down Nitmiluk Gorge.
- Soak in the sandy-bottomed thermal springs in **Mataranka**, **Bitter Springs** and **Katherine** with their tranquil, tropical surrounds.
- Conquer the world-famous **Jatbula Trail**—a 62-kilometre walking trail through Nitmiluk National Park. Swim in waterholes you can only access on the trail, wander through towering sandstone escarpments and spot native wildlife.
- Learn how Aboriginal people make traditional weapons, live off the land and create their distinctive paintings at **Top Didj** just outside of Katherine.
- Explore the **Cutta Cutta Caves**, the tropical limestone cave system 27 km south of Katherine.



Top Didj Cultural Experience



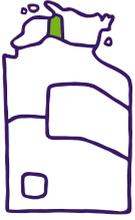
Edith Falls (Leliyn), Nitmiluk National Park



Sunset Dinner Cruise, Nitmiluk Gorge



Baruwei Lookout, Nitmiluk National Park



“It’s like an unexpected oasis that you never thought would exist out here in the Top End”

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## Kakadu & surrounds

**Kakadu National Park** is Australia’s largest national park and is approximately the size of Switzerland. This iconic natural landmark of Australia has dual UNESCO World Heritage status for both its natural and cultural values. Waterfalls tumbling down rock escarpments 100 metres high and remote walking trails are highlights here, as are the important Aboriginal rock art sites dotted around the park.

The Bininj and Munggyu people have called Kakadu home for 65,000 years, and you can see evidence of their ancient culture and preservation of the land throughout the park.

Kakadu’s vast rivers and wetlands are home to barramundi, crocodiles and hundreds of bird species. In the tropical summer months, rains connect the rivers, creeks and gorges, transforming the landscape into a green, water-filled oasis. Take a boat cruise on **Yellow Water Billabong** or the **East Alligator River** to see and learn about the many species of wildlife that live here and the significance of these waterways to the local Aboriginal people.

### Access

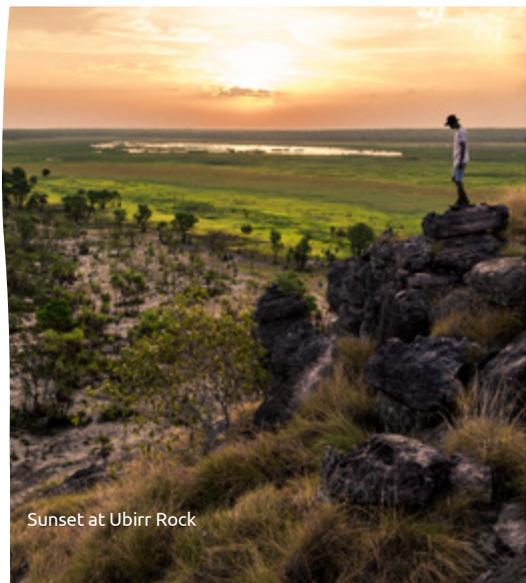
Kakadu National Park is about three hours’ drive from Darwin, with sealed roads all the way. You can join day- and multi-day tours that run regularly from Darwin.



Maguk (Barramundi) Gorge



Aboriginal Cultural Experiences



Sunset at Ubirr Rock





Gunlom Waterfall



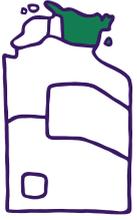
Yellow Water Cruises



Twin Falls

## Top tips

- Visit **Ubirr** and **Nourlangie**, Kakadu's two easily accessible Aboriginal rock art sites.
- Fly over Kakadu's wetlands, floodplains and ancient sandstone plateau in a helicopter or a fixed-wing aircraft.
- Swim in the pristine plunge pools at **Gunlom**, a natural infinity pool with views across the Kakadu landscape.
- Explore the **Yurmikmik walks** and swim in waterholes and rock pools along the way.
- Four-wheel-drive to **Jim Jim Falls**, and see the majestic waterfall tumble down 200-metres of rock escarpment. Or nearby **Twin Falls**, another one of Kakadu's spectacular waterfalls.
- Stay overnight at Maguk campground and explore the tranquil waterfall at **Maguk** (Barramundi Gorge) the next morning.
- Wander through **Bowali** and **Warradjan** cultural centres in Jabiru and Cooinda for interpretive displays of the region's flora, fauna, history and culture.



# Arnhem Land

**Arnhem Land** borders Kakadu National Park in the north-east of the Northern Territory. This vast area is Aboriginal-owned land, and traditional Aboriginal culture here remains largely intact. Arnhem Land's scenery is beautiful and diverse, with rugged coastlines, remote islands, monsoon rainforests, towering escarpments, savannah woodlands and rivers teeming with fish.

Visit in August to experience Australia's leading indigenous cultural exchange, the Garma Festival, embark on a safari at Mount Borradaile and stay in an eco-lodge, explore the white sand and turquoise coastline of East Arnhem Land or go on a 4WD adventure through the Coburg Peninsula.

Arnhem Land has much to offer, guests can experience relaxation, arts, culture, fishing, camping and even sampling local bush foods.

## Access

The traditional owners welcome you to visit Arnhem Land, however all visitors require a permit to enter, which the many tours departing from Darwin will arrange for you. If you're driving yourself, you'll also need a high-clearance 4WD vehicle. To explore Nhulunbuy and **East Arnhem Land**, you can fly into Gove Airport and join an arranged tour from there.



Rock Art Tour



Banu Banu Retreat, East Arnhem Land



Lonely Beach



Injalak Arts Experience



Guided Tour Through Arnhem Land



## Top tips

- Meet the local artists at Injalak, Yirrkala or Maningrida arts centres, or join an **art tour** to see the style of Aboriginal rock art unique to this area, X-ray art, which shows animals and humans with accurate descriptions of their internal organs and bones.
- Stay in a beach retreat in East Arnhem Land and join **Aboriginal cultural tours** to learn about the land and culture from local guides.
- Stay at a wilderness lodge on the remote Coburg Peninsula in **west Arnhem Land** and explore **Garig Gunak Barlu National Park**, go fishing off the Arafura coast or visit historic ruins of the Victoria settlement.



“Central Australia really is the last of the true outback.”

# ••••• The Red Centre

The Red Centre is Australia’s true outback, situated right in the middle of Australia. This area is known for its vast desert plains, fiery red dirt, clear blue skies and boundless horizons. And so much space.

The Red Centre encompasses the Territory’s three southern regions: Tennant Creek and the Barkly region, Alice Springs, and the Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa region.

Here, you’ll experience world-famous natural icons and landscapes, Aboriginal art and culture, outback adventure, unique desert wildlife, and colourful characters who’ll welcome you warmly.

Known as the ‘spiritual heart of Australia’ the Red Centre is home to world famous monoliths Uluru, Kata Tjuṯa and Kings Canyon. Take the Explorers Way or Red Centre Way tourism drives to explore these three Red Centre regions.



Uluru



Longitude 131, Uluru Kata Tjuṯa National Park



Red Centre Self Drive



Kings Canyon, Watarrka National Park



Maruku Arts, Yulara



Karrke, Watarrka National Park



“There really is nothing like it, coming out into the outback and spending as much time as you can under the stars”



# Alice Springs

**Alice Springs** is Australia's most famous outback town, right in the heart of Australia. For a small outback town, you'll be surprised by its vibrant café culture, contemporary art scene and jam-packed festival and events calendar.

Float above the Red Centre horizon in a **hot air balloon**, watch the changing colours of the desert landscape as the sun rises. If it's adventure you're after, you've come to the right place: mountain-biking, bushwalking, four-wheel driving, camel riding, quad bike riding and station stays are all on the menu in Alice Springs.

The 'Alice' has a huge reputation for Aboriginal art—pieces from Alice Springs are displayed in galleries and collectors' homes all over the world. You can explore it all on foot within the town's many art galleries, and can even meet local artists and hear the meaningful stories behind their art.



Anzac Hill



The Kangaroo Sanctuary



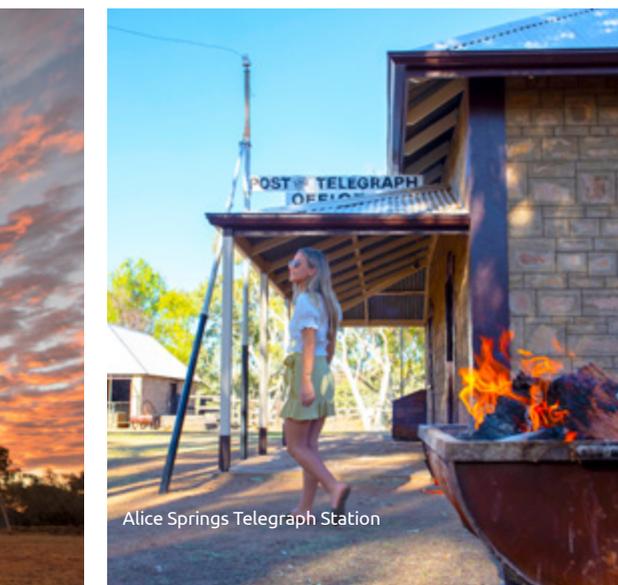
Outback Ballooning



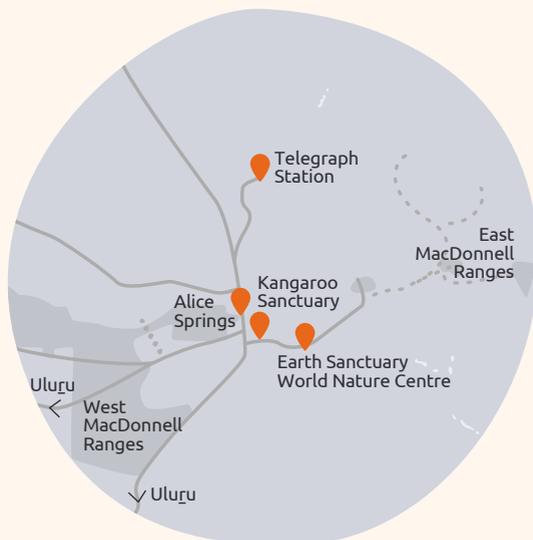
Alice Springs Laneways



Ormiston Gorge



Alice Springs Telegraph Station



### Access

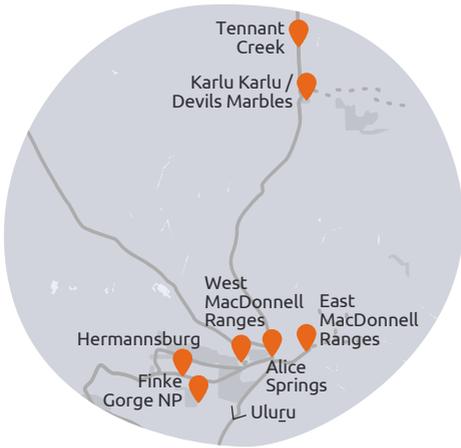
Alice Springs has a domestic airport with services to all of Australia’s capital cities. You can also drive to Alice Springs on the Explorers Way, from Adelaide or Darwin.

Consider boarding the legendary **Ghan train**, which travels between Darwin and Adelaide via Alice Springs with various classes of travel.



### Top tips

- Visit one of the many iconic **museums** around Alice Springs: Royal Flying Doctor Service Museum, Museum of Central Australia, Megafauna Museum and The Women’s Museum of Australia.
- Visit the world’s largest classroom at **Alice Springs School of the Air**.
- Cuddle a joey (baby kangaroo) at the **Kangaroo Sanctuary**.
- Meet the amazing desert reptiles at the **Alice Springs Reptile Centre**.
- Learn about Alice Springs’s colonial history on a guided tour at the **Alice Springs Telegraph Station**.
- Learn about ecology, culture and astronomy at the **Earth Sanctuary**, 15 minutes from town.



“There’s some real characters out here, and in the best way possible. They’re very welcoming... very caring. They love the land.”

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# Beyond Alice Springs

Take your adventure further from Alice Springs and explore impressive rock formations, gorges with freshwater pools and plenty of four-wheel-drive and bushwalking tracks. The landscape here is fiery red and dotted with wild camels and horses. The blue sky appears boundless, stretching as far as the eye can see.

There’s lots to do in the Alice Springs region: visit working outback cattle stations with their rich colonial history or explore sacred rock art sites or ochre pits that were an important part of traditional Aboriginal life hundreds of years ago.

The West and East MacDonnell Ranges are rocky cliffs that stretch out for hundreds of kilometres either side of Alice Springs. The ranges are a must-visit on your trip to the Red Centre, famous for their postcard-like scenery, world-class hikes, incredible swimming holes, curious creatures and natural treasures.



Standley Chasm, West MacDonnell National Park

## West MacDonnell Ranges (Tjoritja)

The **West MacDonnell Ranges** (Tjoritja) stretch to the west of the Alice Springs. There's plenty of outback adventure here, with things to see and do only a short drive from Alice Springs. Swim in the freshwater swimming holes of **Ellery Creek Big Hole** and **Ormiston Gorge**, walk through the impressive rock formations of **Standley Chasm** at noon as the sun sets the red rock ablaze and spot rock wallabies at **Simpsons Gap**.

You can drive yourself or join a guided tour to the West MacDonnell Ranges. Most roads to the main tourist sites are sealed. There are lots of tour options for all budgets and tastes, from day trips to multi-day tours, and there are plenty of camping spots and accommodation options to choose from.

## East MacDonnell Ranges

Step off the beaten track to explore the **East MacDonnell Ranges**, which are every bit as pretty and adventurous as those on the western side of the range. Wander through Aboriginal rock art sites at **Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park**, or go further inwards to **Trephina Gorge**, where some of the ranges' best walking trails will reveal the special sights, sounds and smells of this incredible country. You'll need a four-wheel-drive vehicle to get to most sites in the East MacDonnell Ranges as the roads are not sealed. Or join a guided tour out of Alice Springs—there are plenty to choose from.

## Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles)

North of Alice Springs on the Explorers Way tourism drive is the township of **Tennant Creek** and the Barkly region. This area's most famous natural attraction is **Karlu Karlu** (Devils Marbles), a collection of massive granite boulders strewn across the valley, some standing at six metres tall.

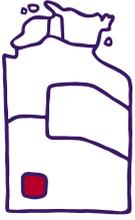
Stay overnight in the nearby campsite for first-class views of the formations at sunset when the colour of the rocks change from red to a purple hue. Next morning, wander the signed walk and read the interpretive signs explaining the site's significance to the local Aboriginal people.



Devils Marbles (Karlu Karlu)

### Top tips

- Stop by the **Ochre Pits** in the West MacDonnell Ranges, a natural quarry where local Aboriginal people gathered coloured ochre rocks for their traditional artwork.
- Explore Palm Valley in the **Finke Gorge National Park**, which has one of the world's oldest riverbeds.
- Wander through the remote wilderness of **Ruby Gap Nature Park** in the East MacDonnell Ranges.
- Visit **Hermannsburg**, an Aboriginal settlement with a rich history. This was also home to famous Aboriginal watercolour artist Albert Namatjira.
- Walk a section, or the whole 223 kilometres of the **Larapinta Trail**. Ranked in the world's top 10 walks, the trail starts in Alice Springs and traverses through the West MacDonnell Ranges.



“Seeing Uluru light up bright red and orange at sunset is nothing I’ve ever seen before. It was truly magical.”

## Uluru & surrounds

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is the spiritual heart of Australia. Home to **Uluru** – Australia’s most iconic landmark – the sheer size of this natural rock formation will leave you speechless.

Uluru’s neighbour is the impressive **Kata Tjuta**, 58 kilometres to the west. This collection of 36 rock domes is estimated to be over 500 million years old. Like Uluru, this is a sacred place for the traditional owners.

The Anangu people are the traditional owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Their culture and history is dotted throughout the park - walk the perimeter of Uluru and discover the rock art and wall markings that tell the Anangu story. This ancient knowledge has never been written down, but has been passed on through songs, stories, ritual dances and rock art. You can experience numerous cultural activities in the park, from a tour of Uluru with an Aboriginal guide to visiting the **cultural centre**, or by joining Aboriginal art painting workshops.



Aboriginal Tour at Uluru

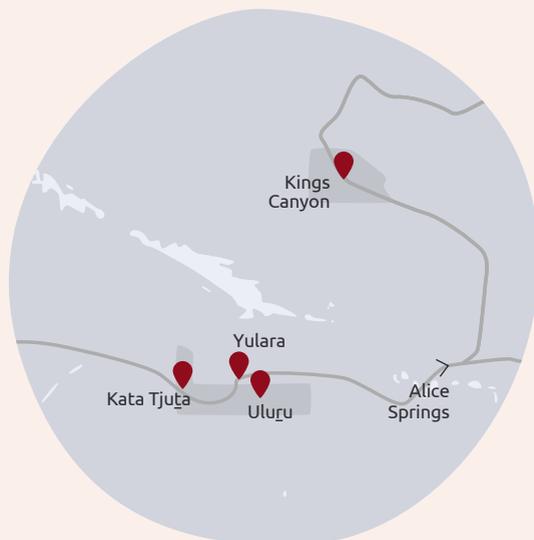


Maruku Arts Experience, Yulara





Uluru at Sunset



### Access

**Ayers Rock Airport** has direct domestic flights from most capital cities around Australia and daily flights from Alice Springs. Yulara, the township near Uluru, is an approximate five-hour drive from Alice Springs on sealed roads. You can join many guided touring options of this area from both Alice Springs and Yulara.



Field of Light Walk

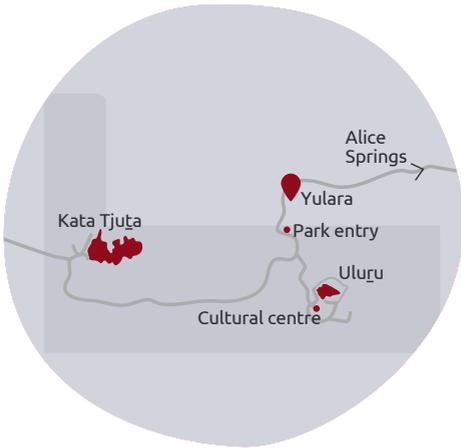


Kata Tjuṯa



### Top tips

- See Uluru and Kata Tjuṯa from above with an exhilarating skydive or a scenic helicopter flight.
- Create your own Aboriginal artwork at **Maruku Arts** dot painting workshop.
- Walk through the **Field of Light** exhibition as darkness falls and watch the colours of the lights illuminate, with Uluru as a silhouette. Pair with a dinner experience under the stars.
- Hike the **Valley of the Winds** at Kata Tjuṯa and be inspired by the spectacular views, or if you are short on time, take only part of the trail to Walpa Gorge.
- Experience **Tali Wiru**: an exclusive four-course dinner with a menu featuring native herbs and spices set under a desert sky.



Get up close to Uluru itself by cycling or walking around the 10km base, and stop off at the interpretive signs along the way for a cultural journey like no other. If you are after more adventure, join a **camel tour** through the red sand dunes overlooking Uluru and Kata Tjuta, ride around Uluru on a **Segway**, or embark on a guided experience to see Uluru and Kata Tjuta at sunrise or sunset. Unwind at your accommodation in the evening and take in the tranquility of the desert surroundings.

The town of Yulara is the region's hub for all accommodation, restaurants and tour operations. In the town square there are free cultural activities held daily by Voyages. Accommodation is suited to all types of travellers from high-end resorts to shared room options. Just over the sand dunes is one of Australia's most unique accommodations, **Longitude 131**. Visible from almost every angle, guests can indulge in meals and drinks with uninterrupted private views of both Uluru and Kata Tjuta from their luxury tents.

Dining in this area is a special experience in itself. Dine under the stars, taste bush-tucker inspired foods in a world-class degustation setting, or feast on an authentic Australian barbecue with some of the world's most iconic scenery as your backdrop.



Longitude 131



Helicopter Flight over Uluru



Segway Tour Around Uluru



Field of Light



“We want to continue to share our language, our knowledge, for our future generation.”

## Watarrka National Park & Kings Canyon

Watarrka National Park is home to the mighty **Kings Canyon**, a dramatic rock formation with 300-metre-high sandstone walls, palm-filled crevices and panoramic views across the desert. The park is four hours' drive from Alice Springs. Take the world-famous rim walk to the top, or the easier walk which wanders through the valley floor amongst the lush foliage of the Garden of Eden.

There are two accommodation options near the park offering hotel rooms or 'glamping' tents, with a range of dining experiences and adventure-based activities.

Don't miss the **Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience**. This small Aboriginal community on the outskirts of Watarrka National Park will welcome you and share their culture and family traditions. You'll learn how to gather local bush foods, treat yourself with bush medicines and make traditional tools and weapons.

### Access

You get to Watarrka National Park via the Red Centre Way tourism drive. There are two options: travel the sealed road or take the unsealed Mereenie Loop, which you'll need a four-wheel-drive for. Or join a guided tour departing from Alice Springs or Yulara (Uluṟu).



Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience



Kings Canyon Rim Walk



Kings Creek Station



Glamping at Kings Canyon Resort

### Top tips

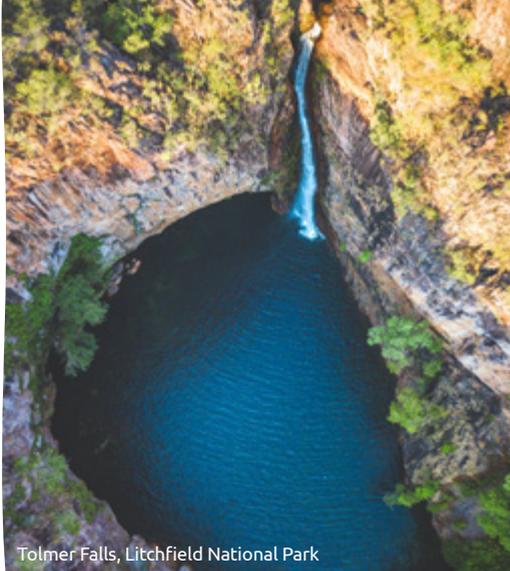
- Take a bird's eye view of Kings Canyon and the surrounding landscapes in a helicopter.
- Hike the Kings Canyon Rim Walk. It takes around three hours but is one of the most scenic experiences of the area.
- Try '**glamping**' at Kings Creek Station. The dreamtime escarpment tents have king size beds, air-conditioning, luxury amenities and a spectacular view over the desert.



Self Drive  
Itinerary

# ..... Nature's Way

Follow the **Nature's Way** tourism drive from Darwin through to Kakadu National Park and Nitmiluk National Park. You'll view iconic natural wonders of the Top End at every turn. If you love adventure, this is the road trip for you, with natural swimming waterholes and bush walks for all fitness levels. On your return to Darwin, soak in the plunge pools and waterfalls of Litchfield National Park.



Tolmer Falls, Litchfield National Park



Nitmiluk National Park



Corroboree Billabong





Aboriginal Cultural Experiences, Kakadu

### Day 1: Darwin to Kakadu (250km)

The rare and unspoilt beauty of Kakadu National Park, Australia's largest, is only a three-hour drive from Darwin. On your way to the park along the Arnhem highway, stop at the Adelaide River and board a cruise to see huge saltwater crocodiles jump for food from the safety of the riverboat. There are many accommodation options in Kakadu including camping, budget rooms and hotels.

### Day 2 & 3: Kakadu National Park

Cruise along Yellow Water to see crocodiles and birdlife. Walk through ancient Aboriginal rock art galleries at Nourlangie and Ubirr and learn about the local Aboriginal culture that is more than 65,000 years old at the Bowali and Warradjan cultural centres.

### Day 4: Kakadu to Katherine via Pine Creek (300km)

Travel to the small town of Pine Creek with its gold rush history dating back to the 1870s. Continue south to the outback town of Katherine and on to Nitmiluk National Park, home of the magnificent Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge.

### Day 5: Katherine to Darwin (350km)

Travel back to Darwin via the Stuart Highway and enjoy a swim at the beautiful Edith Falls (Leliyn) along the way. Drop in for a cool drink and a chat with friendly locals at some of the unique Territory roadhouses along the way or stop for an extra night at Litchfield National Park and explore the various waterfalls and hikes in the region.

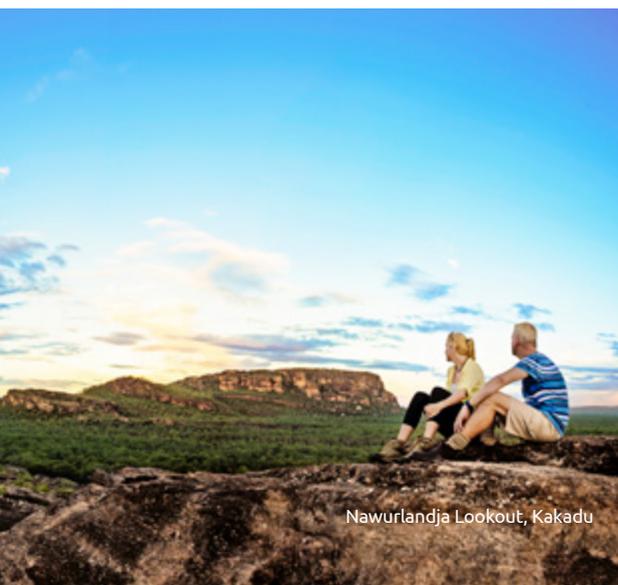


Giant Termite Mounds



## Top tips

- Jump on a cruise along **Corroboree Billabong**, off the Arnhem Highway, to see some of this area's incredible bird species and wildlife, including crocodiles.
- Visit **Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve** and spot iconic birdlife, crocodiles and even buffalo that live in this wetland system.
- In Kakadu National Park, visit **Nawurlandja lookout** at sunset to watch the colours of the Top End landscape change.
- Don't miss **Katherine Outback Experience**, an entertaining outback show giving guests an insight into authentic station life, horse training, working dog demonstrations and humorous bush tales.



Nawurlandja Lookout, Kakadu



## Self Drive Itinerary

# Red Centre Way

Discover the **Red Centre Way** tourism drive from Alice Springs to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and Watarrka National Park.

Take an adventure along the Mereenie Loop from Alice Springs and explore the diverse landscapes of the Red Centre. Uncover the raw beauty of Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Watarrka/Kings Canyon. Travel through the waterhole-dotted stretch of the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell Ranges, including a section of unsealed road best suited for experienced off-road drivers. If you have a two-wheel drive vehicle, take the completely sealed road option instead.



Kangaroo at Uluru



Uluru Camel Tours



Ormiston Gorge, West MacDonnell National Park



Rainbow Valley

### Day 1: Alice Springs to West MacDonnell National Park and return (260km)

Take a day trip from Alice Springs to enjoy the West MacDonnell National Park, a spectacular stretch of natural formations including chasms and gorges, waterholes and ochre pits.

### Day 2: Alice Springs to Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon) (400km)

Enjoy the vast desert scenery along the way to Kings Canyon in Watarrka National Park. Make sure your camera is ready—some of the NT's best photo opportunities are here. There's a range of accommodation options at Kings Canyon including hotel and budget rooms, 'glamping' tents and station-style accommodation.

### Day 3: Watarrka National Park to Uluru (300km)

Get up early to see the sunrise and experience the Kings Canyon Rim Walk to take in the magnificent views of the sheer canyon walls and the sheltered lush valley below in the Garden of Eden. Depart Kings Canyon and travel to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

### Day 4: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

See Uluru and Kata Tjuta at sunrise or sunset on a camel, from the air or by foot. There are many options for exploring this amazing icon, and however you travel, you'll take lasting memories home.

### Day 5: Uluru to Alice Springs (445km)

Enjoy a final sunrise in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park before dropping off your vehicle at Ayers Rock Airport or making your way north to return to Alice Springs.



## Top tips

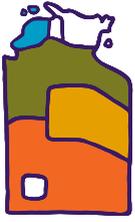
- Visit **Redbank Gorge** in the West MacDonnell Ranges and swim in the freshwater pool (four-wheel-drive access only).
- Stop in at **Gosse Bluff** and hike to the top for spectacular views of this ancient meteorite crater.
- Look out for the Voyages free cultural activities held on the grassed lawns of town Square in Yulara, township of Uluru.
- Stop at **Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve**, an hour's drive south of Alice Springs. Renowned for its sandstone bluffs and cliffs with bands of different coloured rocks.



Uluru



Kings Canyon Rim Walk, Watarrka National Park



## Self Drive Itinerary



# Explorers Way

One of the great Australian driving routes, the **Explorers Way** connects Darwin to Adelaide by passing some of Australia's favourite natural icons: Alice Springs, the West and East MacDonnell Ranges (Tjoritja), Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles, Nitmiluk National Park and the waterfalls of Litchfield National Park through to Darwin.

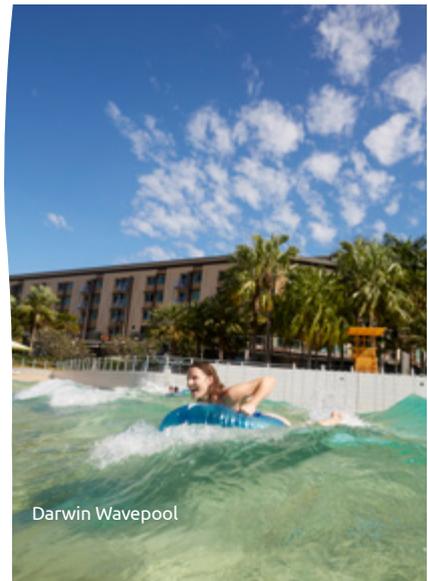
Follow the Stuart Highway, blazed in the 1860s forging the Overland Telegraph line, and drive through towns brimming with culture and activities. The highway is named after John McDouall Stuart, the first explorer to cross Australia from south to north and return. Make sure you stop in at some of the historic outback pubs along the way.



Sunset Dinner Cruise, Nitmiluk Gorge



Katherine Hot Springs



Darwin Wavepool





Daly Waters Historic Pub



Devils Marbles (Karlalu)



Glen Helen Gorge

### Day 1: Alice Springs

Spend the day enjoying the sights of Alice Springs – take the ‘Town like Alice’ tour and visit the many attractions in the town itself: the Alice Springs School of the Air, Alice Springs Reptile Centre and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

### Day 2: Alice Springs to Tennant Creek (510km)

Depart Alice Springs for the six-hour drive to Tennant Creek, where the last gold rush of Australia took place in the 1930s. Stop at Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles), a collection of massive granite boulders.

### Day 3: Tennant Creek to Daly Waters (394km)

Continue north on the Stuart Highway for around four hours to Daly Waters. Soak up outback hospitality at the famous Daly Waters Historic Pub and stay overnight in the campground or in one of the hotel’s various room types.

### Day 4: Daly Waters to Katherine (270km)

Take the three-hour journey from Daly Waters to Katherine. Plan a stop at Mataranka to soak in its famous thermal pool, surrounded by tropical foliage.

### Day 5: Katherine to Darwin (316km)

Take a boat tour through Nitmiluk Gorge or a scenic flight to see waterfalls and dramatic landscapes. Continue your journey to Darwin, stopping in at Litchfield National Park to swim at one of the many waterfalls. In Darwin, the Territory’s tropical capital city, experience the famous food culture at the various markets and buzzing restaurants and bars.



## Top tips

- Add on the Red Centre Way itinerary out of Alice Springs to visit world heritage listed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon).
- Visit the waterfall at **Southern Rockhole** in Nitmiluk National Park to see it flowing during the tropical summer.
- Swim at the **Recreation Lagoon** at Darwin’s vibrant Waterfront Precinct, a man-made beach, or body surf at the nearby Wave Lagoon.

# Climate

The Northern Territory is so large that it covers two climate zones.



Guided Tour in the Red Centre



## The Red Centre

The Red Centre has clear blue skies and sunshine nearly all year round. The semi-arid climate means cool evenings and warm, sunny days. Most activities in the Red Centre are conducted in the early hours of the morning or at sunset.

Spring (from September) is a popular season to visit because the climate is mild, the wildflowers bloom and there is an abundance of baby animals and wildlife. The winter months (June–August) are great for outdoor activities like mountain biking, hiking and bushwalking. It gets cold at night during this time.



Mountain Biking in the Red Centre



## Temperatures

December to February:  
20–35 degrees Celsius

March to May:  
12–27 degrees Celsius

June to August:  
3–20 degrees Celsius

September to November:  
14–30 degrees Celsius



Alfresco Dining in Darwin





Southern Rockhole, Nitmiluk National Park



Top End Airboat Experience



Saltwater Crocodile

## The Top End

The Top End's tropical climate supports the famous year-round outdoor lifestyle, which locals and visitors make the most of.

The dry season, from April to September (when southern Australia is freezing through winter), brings warm, sunny days and cool nights. This means a packed Top End calendar of outdoor festivals and events, people cruising on the harbour and out fishing for barramundi, and waterfront restaurants and outdoor bars brimming with people having a good time.

The Top End is also known for its rich wetlands and cascading waterfalls, which are all on show at nearby Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks.

The best time of year to see our wetlands and waterfalls come to life is during our tropical summer from October to March, where the monsoonal rain troughs hover over the Top End from January onwards.

### Temperatures

April to September:  
21–32 degrees Celsius

October to March:  
25–33 degrees Celsius



## Be Crocwise

In the Top End, saltwater crocodiles live in many waterholes, rivers and creeks. You must be aware of crocodiles when fishing, boating or camping around water. Remember to be Crocwise and only swim where signs say it's safe to do so. Never swim where signs say not to.



# Events and Festivals

The Northern Territory's **festival and events** calendar draws crowds of thousands who come to immerse themselves in local culture. Experience art and culture events, outdoor festivals, and even camel racing.

## Tiwi Islands Grand Final and Art Sale March

Australian Rules Football is a sport the local Tiwi people live for and celebrate. The grand final game is played on the Tiwi Islands in March every year and draws crowds from near and far. The **Tiwi Art Sale** is held on the same day to showcase and sell unique Tiwi art from all over the island.

## Parrtjima – A Festival in Light April

Parrtjima showcases Aboriginal culture in Alice Springs. Visitors come to watch the surrounding desert landscapes come alive with artwork, a dramatic light show against the backdrop of the majestic MacDonnell Ranges, and an exciting artistic program filled with interactive workshops, performances, music, film and talks.



All Northern Territory events are subject to a change in date or cancellation. Please visit the event's official website or contact the event organisers directly for the latest information.



## Uluru Camel Cup

May

Join locals at a true Australian outback event, the Uluru Camel Cup, which starts on a Friday evening with live entertainment and a camel Calcutta. On Saturday is the famed camel race—watch the camels kick up the dust in the qualifying rounds and reach the finish line in the big final race. The entertainment continues that evening with a live band under the stars.

## Taste of Kakadu

May

Take part in a multi-day cultural food festival featuring pop-up degustation dinners, campfire stories, cooking demonstrations with traditional land owners, guided bush tucker walks and sunset tasting boat cruises, all set in the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park.



## Garma Festival

July/August

The Garma Festival is Australia's largest Aboriginal-led and programmed cultural exchange. A multi-day program held in east Arnhem Land that showcases cultural dance, art and song as well as multiple workshop opportunities to learn about the local Yolngu people's culture.



## Darwin Festival

August

The annual Darwin Festival is 17 days and nights of outdoor festival fun in Darwin, with a packed program of local, national and international talent. Cabaret, theatre, music, dance, comedy and visual arts take place each evening in balmy, tropical park settings, against a backdrop of twinkling lights.

## Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair

August

At the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair you can buy artwork direct from more than 70 Aboriginal-owned community art centres from around Australia. There's also traditional dance events, workshops, film, fashion and music.

## Desert Mob Marketplace and Exhibition

September

The annual Desert Mob Exhibition in Alice Springs draws together Aboriginal artists from across art centres in the Red Centre to display their arts and crafts. Wander through the displays of traditional paintings, ceramics, prints and textile art works at this popular one-day event.

## Kakadu Bird Week

September/October

Kakadu National Park is home to hundreds of species of Australian birds. The park hosts a dedicated week celebrating the diverse birdlife in the Top End. Join an expert bird watching tour, boat cruise or many other free birdwatching activities.



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