Access

How do you get to the Tiwi Islands?

Sea

Ferry

Sealink NT operates the passenger ferry from Darwin to Wuringiya on Bathurst Island. The service operates on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. The journey is approximately 2.5 hours each way. Check the website for times. www.sealinknt.com.au

Barge

Sealink run a barge service from Wuringiya and Pirlangimpi twice weekly on Monday and Thursday to Milikapiti weekly arriving each Friday. www.seaswift.com.au

Private Boat

The operators of Port Melville run a barge service for freight to Wuringiya and Pirlangimpi, two hours from Darwin to reach Wurringiya, approximately four hours to reach Port Melville, and approximately two hours from Darwin to reach Pirlangimpi and approximately four hours to Milikapiti.

Air

Fly Tiwi runs a regular service to Wuringiya, Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti. www.flytiwi.com.au

Charter Flights

There are several organisations that will provide charter flights to various communities on the Tiwi Islands.

Permits

Visitor Permits

Visitors will typically need a permit to visit the Tiwi Islands. It is an easy process that can be organised by tour operators or by contacting the Tiwi Land Council. While some areas on the Tiwi Islands do not require a permit to visit, in the interests of courtesy and visitor safety you are asked to contact the Tiwi Land Council if you are planning to visit the Tiwi Islands.

www.tiwilandcouncil.com/permits

Transport

How do I get around the Tiwi Islands?

Hire Car

Wuringiya Tiwi Enterprises has a range of vehicles available for hire from Wuringiya. They can be arranged for pick up at the airstrip.

www.tiwie.com.au

Milikapiti

There is car hire available from the Milikapiti Visitor Accommodation Centre.

Contact: (08) 8978 3950

www.tiwies.com.au

Barge

Wuringiya and Puri Barge and Boat Between Islands

Wuringiya and Puri

Tiwi Islands Regional Council Inter Island Car Ferry runs Monday to Friday approximately 6:00am – 4:00pm. tickets are available at Council Offices or by phone.

Contact: (08) 8970 9500

www.tiwislands.org.au

Individual Tour Operators

Various locations

Individual tour operators and fishing lodges are able to organise personalised transport around the islands by car, boat and aircraft.

Attractions

What is there to see and do?

Wuringiya

Tiwi Design

A very popular attraction known for its art, craft, pottery and screen printing, with a great range of art and accessories for sale.

www.tiwiart.com and www.tiwidesigns.com

Tiwi By Design

One-day Tiwi By Design art and walking tour available through Sealink NT. www.sealinknt.com.au

Bima Wear

Established in 1969 is a Tiwi women’s enterprise specialising in fabric design, printing and sewing. Sells fabrics, homewares and clothing. www.bimawear.com

Ngaruwarajini (Keeping Place) Workshop and Gallery

Traditional art and craft including carving, painting. Into block printing and batik on silk for sale. Contact: (08) 8978 3724

Football

Australian Football was introduced in 1946 to the Tiwi Islands and now there are seven local teams with the highest participation rate in Australia at 90% on a per capita basis. The Grand Final is played in March every year.

Pirlangimpi

Tiwi Art Enterprises

A fishing lodge with a great location and relaxing views. It includes accommodation and guides to take you fishing. www.munupiart.com

Clearwater Island Fishing Lodge

A fishing lodge in an attractive location with stunning views, accommodation and guides to take you fishing. www.munupi.com.au

Millikapiti

Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association

The art centre produces fine art and also houses the Mulukwai Museum, a collection of carvings, Tiwi artefacts, paintings and early photographs. www.sites.jilamara.com

Melville Island Fishing Lodge

A fishing lodge with a great location and relaxing views. It includes accommodation and guides to take you fishing. Ask about visiting spectacular Goose Creek. www.tiwies.com.au

West Bathurst Island

Bathurst Island Lodge

Located on the remote south western coast of Bathurst with dramatic views. The lodge was Australia’s first ever guided barramundi sport-fishing lodge. It included accommodation and guides to take you fishing. www.tiwies.com.au

Melville Island

Johnson River Camp

An extremely isolated fishing camp situated in a bush setting in the pristine upper reaches of the Johnson River on the north west coast of Melville Island.

www.tiwies.com.au

Robertson Creek Campsite

A basic camp site for private boats, located on the north east of Cape Gambier. A private boat and visitor permit is required.


Camp Point Camp Site

A basic camp site for private boats, located on Cape Kafl. A private boat and visitor permit is required.


Accommodation

Where can I stay on the Tiwi Islands?

Wuringiya

Tiwi Enterprises

Visitors accommodation with ensuits. www.tiwie.com.au

Tiwi Islands Regional Council

A motel for accommodators.

Contact: (08) 8970 9500

Pirlangimpi

Tiwi Islands Regional Council

Contactors quarters. Contact: (08) 8970 9500

Port Melville

Port Melville Accommodation Village

A workers village just outside the community of Pirlangimpi which provides accommodation and meals. Contact: (08) 8930 6500

Millikapiti

Millikapiti Visitor Accommodation Centre

A fan room complex with a common kitchen, lounge and laundry. Contact: (08) 8979 0313

Tiwi Enterprises

An eighteen room complex with common facilities. www.tiwie.com.au

Shops & Food Outlets

Where can I buy food and other items?

Wuringiya

Pilyardiyami Supermarket

Opening hours are typically 8.00am – 5.30pm Mon–Fri, 8.00am – 12.00pm Sat, Closed Sun.

NUA Supermarket

Opening hours are typically 8.00am – 4.00pm.

NUA Take Away

Opening hours are typically 8.00am – 8.00pm.

Ta’s Take Away

Opening hours are typically 7.00am – 8.45am Mon–Fri, 7.00am – 4.00pm Sat and Sun.

Melville Island

Millikapiti Store

Opening hours are typically 8.00am – 4.00pm.

Essentials

What essentials should I think about?

Communications

Phones

Mobile phone reception is limited to Talalora and Talalora compliant network only in the communities of Wuringiya, Pirlangimpi and Millikapiti. Public phones are also located in those three communities. A satellite phone will be required for coverage outside of the communities.

Internet

There is no public internet access.

Medical and Emergency Services

Emergency call 000

Health Clinics

Jilamara (08) 8978 3994, Wuringiya, Pirlangimpi (08) 8978 3953, Millikapiti (08) 8978 3990

Police Stations

Wuringiya (08) 8978 3967, Pirlangimpi (08) 8978 3966, Millikapiti (08) 8978 3969

Money

ATMs

Most stories have ATMs for use during opening hours.

Fuel

Opet and diesel fuels are available at Wuringiya, Pirlangimpi, Millikapiti and Ranku.

Climate

What sort of weather should I expect?

Dry Season (approx June–September)

What to expect

The temperature ranges from approximately 18 degrees Celsius at nights through to approximately 35 degrees Celsius during the days. There is very limited rain but there can be occasions of fog or sea mist. Bush fires, flies and mosquito may occur.

What to wear and bring

Sunscreen, hat, long sleeve shirts, trousers or shorts, sandals or boots, insect repellent, water and snacks.

Wet Season (approx October–May)

What to expect

The temperature ranges from approximately 25 degrees Celsius to approximately 38 degrees Celsius with high humidity, regular tropical thunder storms, and tropical monsoons. Cyclones may occur.

What to wear and bring

Umbrella, sunscreen, hat, long sleeve shirts, trousers or shorts, sandals or boots, insect repellent, water and snacks.

The Tiwi Islands and its People

What is the background of the Tiwi Islands and the Tiwi People?

Tiwi People

People

The Tiwi People are Indigenous Australians that have their own unique culture and language.

Language

The Tiwi People’s first language is Tiwi and their second language is English.

Tiwi Islands Administration

Tiwi Land Council

The Tiwi Land Council helps the Traditional Owners of the Tiwi Islands to manage their land and sea.

www.tiwilandcouncil.com.au

Tiwi Islands Regional Council

The Tiwi Islands Regional Council provides a range of services across the Tiwi Islands. www.tiwislands.org.au

A special acknowledgment is extended to the Tiwi Land Council for their supply of key images and support.

Limitations and Disclaimer

Information is current at time of publication. The author procured is limited to his own personal considerations, it is based on gaining an understanding of various matters relevant to the Tiwi Islands. The Corporation does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information, documents unreadable and are not available, forwarded in connection with this document. Anyone planning to visit the Tiwi Islands should do own research to access current and full information about themselves. Information which matters relevant to the Tiwi Land Development Corporation, November 2015.

Design and Sear: Christa Dicks in Design

The Tiwi Islands, Bathurst and Melville, cover a large expanse of around 780,000 hectares and are approximately 70 kilometres north of Darwin, within easy reach via light aircraft or ferry.

Melville Island is the second largest island in Australia.