Darwin is your port to Adventure – with so much to see and do, you will be truly spoiled for choice in this very special city.

Cool off under a waterfall in Litchfield National Park, immerse yourself in the colourful and diverse Aboriginal art and experience all that the Tiwi Islands has to offer on a day tour by ferry or air. Finish off your days savouring the city’s culinary delights while taking in Darwin’s iconic sunsets.

TOP 10 MUST DO’S

1. Immerse yourself in Aboriginal Culture at the various Art Galleries in Darwin
2. Discover the abundance of tropical life at the George Brown Botanic Gardens
3. Explore and swim in the many waterholes of Litchfield National Park
4. Get amongst the interactive displays of the Defence of Darwin Experience or the Royal Flying Doctor Service Tourist Facility
5. Sit back, relax with a sunset drink or dinner on a Darwin Harbour cruise
6. Take a ferry or fly to the Tiwi Islands for art, AFL, fishing and more
7. Cool down at the Wave Pool and Recreation Lagoon by the waterfront
8. Get up close and personal with a saltwater crocodile in the Cage of Death at Crocosaurus Cove
9. Browse through unique art and enjoy delicious international cuisine at the Mindil Beach Sunset Markets
10. Discover the wildlife at the Territory Wildlife Park where you can take in the bird show and even feed whiprays and barramundi

For more must-do’s around Darwin, visit northernterritory.com
DARWIN & SURROUNDS
SEVEN DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1
Start your day with a morning coffee ‘fix’ and breakfast at one of the many popular cafés in the city. Take the time to browse the local shops and boutique stores for some unique goodies to take home.

Today, immerse yourself in the local Aboriginal art scene. Darwin City and Parap are great places to view and invest in Aboriginal art pieces from around the Northern Territory. The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory is also a great place to find out more about Aboriginal art and to see local crocodile celebrity, Sweetheart. This famous 5-metre, 780-kilogram taxidermied saltwater crocodile is on permanent display in the museum. The museum also houses a Cyclone Tracy exhibition which is well worth a visit to appreciate the scale of devastation the city suffered on 24th December 1974.

Take a walk through the shady George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, or better yet hop on a Segway tour to experience the incredible flora of Northern Australia from a completely different perspective. Wander through monsoon forests, coastal dunes, mangroves and open woodlands before relaxing with lunch at the onsite café.

This afternoon, head over to Stokes Hill Wharf which is located within the Darwin Waterfront Precinct. This is a popular spot for fishing with the locals, and is dotted with popular restaurants, eateries and retail shops. It is also a great opportunity to check out the giant cruise ships docked at the Cruise Ship Terminal.

Finish your day with some fresh fish and chips and a cold drink while enjoying a beautiful Top End sunset. If you’re lucky you might even have the chance to spot some local dolphins in the water below.

DAY 2
Today, set out for a Top End adventure with a day trip to Litchfield National Park, only 1.5 hour drive from Darwin. You’ll see why locals consider this one of their favourite locations with its cascading waterfalls, waterholes and bushwalks. If a cool dip is what you are after then plunge into the crystal clear waterholes beneath the magnificent spring-fed waterfalls of Florence and Wangi Falls. Or, you can relax in the gentle three-tiered cascade waters shaded by rainforest at Buley Rockhole.

If you are feeling more adventurous, then lace up your boots and take on one of the many bushwalks offered at Litchfield. There is a scenic 3.5 kilometre walk that takes you alongside the beautiful Walker Creek, or for the experienced trekker, there is an epic 39 kilometre Table Top track which will lead you to secret waterfalls. For the Table Top track you must be self-sufficient and register with Parks before you can begin your journey.

You can hire a car to explore Litchfield National Park, or if you prefer not to drive there are many tours available with Aboriginal cultural experiences.
Make your way back to Darwin this afternoon and unwind with a flick at the Deckchair Cinema at the Darwin Waterfront. The open air cinema screens Australian, popular, family, foreign and classic films during the Dry Season (April–November). Make the most of the experience and relax under the stars enjoying their onsite bar and food stalls.

**DAY 3**

Today, make the most of your time in Darwin to learn all about the city’s wartime efforts of WWI and WWII.

The Defence of Darwin Experience at the Military Museum is a great place to get your wartime history fix. Learn about the bombing of Darwin and the city’s role in WWII through the gallery and multimedia presentations. Also, check out the displays of artillery pieces, vehicles, uniforms and firearms at The Military Museum or head to Stokes Hill Wharf and the Bombing of Darwin Harbour exhibit at the RFDS Tourist Facility. The VR movie and life-sized holograms help bring the dramatic events to life.

Head towards the Esplanade where you find Bicentennial Park perched on the cliffs of Darwin Harbour. Visit the Cenotaph, which is Darwin’s first war memorial commemorating Australian’s who lost their lives in WWI, and the Aboriginal men and women whose bush skills assisted the Army during WWII to protect the remote northern coastline. Take a stroll under the tropical trees along The Esplanade, to Parliament House. Mitchell Street is close by here where there are many lunch options to choose from.

Continue on to the WWII Oil Storage Tunnels at the Darwin Wharf Precinct. The Oil Storage Tunnels were created following the bombing of the oil storage tanks in the first Japanese air raid; today two of these tunnels are open for viewing. Follow an experienced guide through the tunnels and learn how they were constructed under harsh conditions to protect the city’s diesel and furnace oil from aerial bombardment.

As the daylight hours start to wane, head back to the waterfront to board a cruise on an historic pearling lugger or catamaran for a sunset drink or dinner.

**DAY 4**

The Tiwi Islands are famous for Aboriginal arts and crafts, a passion for Australian Rules Football (AFL), and fishing.

From Darwin the Tiwi Islands are accessible as part of an organised Aboriginal tour or fishing expedition. Take a 15-minute flight in a light aircraft from Darwin or enjoy a trip over water on the ferry.

Art is part of everyday life on the islands. Make sure your visit includes a stop at an art centre where you can see artists at work and purchase local art and craft. See traditional art and depictions of the Tiwi creation stories on display at the Tiwi Museum, and wander through the unique Tiwi-style Catholic Church in the Early Mission Precinct.

Head back to Darwin this afternoon and book ahead to secure a table at one of the city’s culinary must-do’s: Hanuman Restaurant. Capturing the flavours of multicultural Darwin, Hanuman combines Asian-style decor with distinctive menu of Thai, Indian and Nonya cuisine. Chef Jimmy Shu’s trumpet mushrooms and Hanuman oysters come highly recommended.
DAY 5
This morning, make your way to Darwin Waterfront for breakfast with a view. From high end restaurants to more casual cafes and bars – there is something for everyone.

Make sure you pack your bathers so you can go for a swim at the Wave or Recreation Lagoons. Paddle, swim, bodysurf or play in this man-made lagoon, with man-made waves of up to 1.7 metres generated at regular intervals. Both areas are safe for swimming and protected from stingers.

After lunch, make your way to Crocosaurus Cove located in the heart of Darwin on Mitchell Street. Here you will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the largest reptile on the planet, the saltwater crocodile, and learn about a variety of fish and reptile species at the aquarium.

There is a twice daily crocodile and fish feeding show that’s not to be missed. And, if you are feeling particularly brave, climb into the Cage of Death for a face-to-face encounter with one of the largest saltwater crocodiles in captivity. It is the ultimate adrenaline rush!

Darwin’s popular Mindil Beach Sunset Markets are held every Thursday and Sunday evening between May and October. The region’s incredible multicultural mix is well represented at the market’s arts and crafts and food stalls, so go with a spare bag and an appetite. Enjoy free entertainment by magicians and buskers, then take your pick from the array of food and enjoy your dinner barefoot on the beach whilst taking in an iconic Darwin sunset.

If the Mindil Beach Sunset Markets are not scheduled for tonight, head to Cullen Bay Marina where you can watch the sunset with takeaway fish and chips.

DAY 6
If you feel a need for some R&R today, you can’t go past Berry Springs Nature Park (usually open from May-Nov), located just 47 kilometres south of Darwin. Used as a recreation camp for armed forces personnel during the war, today it is a popular spot for a barbecue and a dip in the clear freshwater pools. If you bring your goggles along you will be able to spot native fish and other aquatic life.

Get active this afternoon and check out one of the bushwalking tracks, or learn more about the wartime history of Berry Springs Nature Park at the interpretive centre.

Discover the local wildlife at the nearby Territory Wildlife Park where you can take in a birds of prey show or join in on hand feeding the whip rays and barramundi in the Oolloo Sandbar. Wander through treetop aviaries, around a natural lagoon and through the aquarium to see animals, including Graeme the saltwater crocodile.

Make your way back to Darwin in the afternoon. Enjoy dinner at Darwin Trailer Boat Club and make a toast to a day well spent in the Top End.
DAY 7
Cruising Top End wetlands teeming with wildlife should be on everyone’s bucket list.

Today, immerse yourself in the wildlife on a one-hour cruise on Corroboree Billabong, just a 1.5 hour drive from Darwin. It is the perfect way to see, photograph and find out more about the local wildlife. Expect to see wetland birds, including jabirus and brolgas, magpies, geese and many others, as well as crocodiles. The billabong is said to have the highest concentration of saltwater crocodiles in the world. Be sure to make a stopover at Window on the Wetlands, where interactive displays explain the history and ecology, seasonal changes and abundant wildlife of the northern coastal wetlands.

On your way back to Darwin, stop in at Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve. It is one of the few wetland systems that are generally accessible year-round. Here, boardwalks take you through different landscapes and observation platforms to view the large numbers of resident wading birds.

Tonight, cap off your week in Darwin and say farewell in style at one of the many bars and pubs on the city’s main entertainment strip, Mitchell Street. Choose from traditional pubs with beer gardens, popular live music venues, terrace bars with street-side dining, casual backpacker joints, swanky cocktail bars and night clubs.