



Tour of the Top End Darwin, Katherine, Kakadu & Litchfield National Parks

24 November 2020 - 04 December 2020

Itinerary prepared for
Private Group



The beautiful and ancient Katherine Gorge, Top End, Northern Territory



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TUESDAY 24 November: Arrive Darwin

Arrive Darwin, meet your Local Guide, travel by car to Hilton Hotel and check in. (Rooms will not be ready until after 2pm.)

Relax, explore or rest in Australia's most northern capital city.

Accommodation: Hilton Hotel, Mitchell Street, Darwin

WEDNESDAY 25 November: Darwin

Today you are free to explore Darwin city, commencing with a trip on the *Hop On Hop Off* Bus. What better way to see the sites and get a feel for the layout of the city, than in the comfort of a double decker bus as it visits the main sites of Darwin. Stay on the bus or hop off where you wish and jump back on when a later bus arrives. Timetable and map will be provided. Within the central business district of Darwin there are many shops and historic sites to visit.

Dinner tonight is at the Darwin Hotel, site of the first pub in Darwin and opposite the Hilton Hotel. Limited menu and drinks list.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

THURSDAY 26 November: Darwin

Another day of exploring, shopping, walking, resting.

Dinner tonight will be at Fanny Bay to watch the sunset (which Darwin is famous for) and possibly the brewing of a storm over the harbor.

Meals: Breakfast

FRIDAY 27 November: Darwin to Katherine

After breakfast we head to Katherine, approximately 3 hours south of Darwin. We will stop at Adelaide River for a quick tour of the small town and visit the War Cemetery. After arrival in Katherine and check-in, we will do a short tour of the town visiting the Katherine Hot Springs. Our day will end with drinks and nibbles near the Katherine Hot Springs.

Meals: Breakfast, Nibbles and Sunset Drinks

Accommodation: Knotts Crossing Resort, Corner of Giles and Cameron Streets, Katherine

SATURDAY 28 November: Katherine

Our first event in Katherine is a 2 hour Katherine Gorge Cruise in the beautiful and ancient Nitmiluk National Park. We will cruise up the gorge with a guide, visiting as many gorges as the water level allows. The rest of the day will be free to visit the Katherine Hot Springs, Godinymayi Yijard Rivers Arts & Cultural Centre, Katherine Museum, shop or rest. This day will end with a home cooked meal with a local.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER: Katherine to Jabiru

After breakfast, enjoy a 40 minute flight in a fixed wing aircraft, over Katherine and the 13 gorges that make up Katherine Gorge. Once you have your feet back on the ground, we hit the highway, stopping at the small community of Pine Creek. There is a lot of mining history in Pine Creek and there will be time to explore the historic sites in the middle of town. Next stop is Jabiru in Kakadu National Park. After check-in at the crocodile shaped hotel, there will be time for a swim and a walk around the township before dinner.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel



MONDAY 30 November: Jabiru

Today we will do some exploring in Kakadu National Park, looking for crocodiles at Cahill's Crossing in the East Alligator River, and walking to view rock art.

Mid afternoon, we drive to Coinda for the 2 hour Sunset Yellow Water Billabong Cruise. Experience the magic of the late afternoon on the Yellow Water. Keep an eye out for birds of many varieties, and crocs of many sizes. Yellow Water is part of the South Alligator River system and is unique as it is included in its entirety within a national park that is UNESCO World Heritage listed. Yellow Water is located at the end of Jim Jim Creek.

Before heading back to Jabiru, we will dine at the restaurant at Coinda.

Meals: Breakfast

TUESDAY 01 December: Jabiru to Litchfield

If you have not already visited Marrawuddi Gallery in the old bakery in Jabiru, please make time to do this after breakfast. Here you may see indigenous artists at work surrounded by local art work. Buy a coffee, browse, and if you find something you like take a tangible memory of your time in Kakadu home with you. For our twitching travelers, en-route to Litchfield Tourist Park, we will stop off at Mamukala Wetland and Bird Hide. The number and variety of birds we might see will be dependant on the water level of the wetland. Bring your binoculars and note book. We will pull into Humpty Doo for a quick break and any shopping required.

After checking into our cabins at Litchfield Tourist Park, cool off with a swim or rest in air-conditioned comfort before joining us for nibbles and drinks at sunset.

Meals: Breakfast, Sunset Nibbles and Drinks

Accommodation: Litchfield Tourist Park

WEDNESDAY 02 December – Litchfield

Today we head to Litchfield National Park in the safe hands of Tess and Greg of 'Northern Territory Indigenous Tours'. They will pick us up, show us some of the sights of this beautiful park and share their stories. Pack your swimming togs and hat and be ready for a tour like no other. We will share a picnic lunch which includes barramundi, crocodile and kangaroo.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

THURSDAY 03 December – Litchfield to Darwin

After breakfast and check-out, we head back to Darwin for final shopping and sight-seeing. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant of choice to share notes and experiences, photos and stories.

Accommodation: Palms City Resort, 64 The Esplanade

FRIDAY 04 December – Darwin

After breakfast and check-out, the last trip together is to the Darwin International Airport for your flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

*Thank you for your business.
I hope you enjoy your stay in the wonderful Top End of Australia.
Please come again.*



SOME OTHER THINGS TO DO IN DARWIN

- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory at Fannie Bay
- Darwin Botanic Gardens and Eva's Café
- Stokes Hill Wharf for lunch or dinner and the RADF and Bombing of Darwin exhibition
- Northern Territory Library at Parliament House and Speakers' Corner
- Darwin Military Museum at East Point
- WW2 Oil Storage Tunnels at Darwin Waterfront
- Darwin Waterfront for breakfast, lunch, dinner and a swim
- Australian Aviation Heritage Museum at Winnellie

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Fixed wing or helicopter flight over Arnhem Land.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

- Darwin is the capital of Australia's Northern Territory and is a former frontier outpost, founded in 1869.
- The population of Darwin is over 140,000
- Darwin has a strong WW2 history and a strong Asia –influenced and seafood dining culture.
- Darwin is the smallest, wettest and most northerly capital city in Australia and serves as the Top End's regional centre.
- Darwin has two seasons – wet and dry.
- The average maximum temperature is similar all year.
- The greater Darwin area is the ancestral home of the Larrakia people.
- On Christmas Day, 1974, Darwin was hit by Cyclone Tracy, killing 71 people and destroying over 70% of the town.
- Katherine is at the crossroads of highways heading north, south, east and west and services many small communities within the region and is situated 317 kilometres south of Darwin.
- The first people of the area were the Jawoyn and Dagomen people.
- The township of Katherine moved twice during early development and finally was established in 1926 with the completion of the railway.
- The population of Katherine boomed during the 1940s when it became a major supply and maintenance centre during WW2.
- Katherine is the jumping off spot for Nitmiluk National Park, with the beautiful Katherine Gorge and Edith Falls, as well as many walking trails.
- 'Kakadu' comes from the Aboriginal language called Gagudji
- Kakadu National Park covers 20,000 square kilometres and is on the UNESCO World Heritage List in recognition of its outstanding natural values and as a living cultural landscape.
- Kakadu has ancient rock art, fresh water rock pools, an abundance of bird and wild life, spectacular landscapes and many walking trails, camping grounds and interesting places to visit.
- Both freshwater and salt water crocodiles can be found in the water ways of the Top End, including the National Parks.
- Litchfield National Park covers 1,500 square kilometres and situated a short 1.5 hour drive south of Darwin.
- Litchfield National Park is important to the Koongurrukun, Marranaggu, Werat and Warray Aboriginal people.
- Termite mounds, crystal clear waterholes and beautiful walks are all waiting for you at Litchfield National Park.



ALSO:

- It will be the wet season so the days will be warm / hot and quite humid.
- Pack cool clothing made of natural fibres.
- The dress code in the Top End is casual.
- Swimming is highly recommended in designated areas only, such as at the accommodation or in particular rock pools in the national parks. This is crocodile country and it is sensible to follow directions on all signage. I don't want you to be a statistic.
- Wear a hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, comfortable clothing and travel with bottles of water. Tap water in the Top End is safe to drink.
- Darwin has many supermarkets, liquor outlets, clothing shops and restaurants. All are close by to the accommodation and accept Visa and Mastercard. Some places do *not* take American Express.