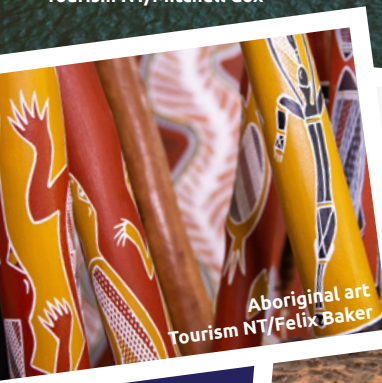


# Katherine & surrounds

## Three-day itinerary

Leliyn/Edith Falls  
Tourism NT/Mitchell Cox



Aboriginal art  
Tourism NT/Felix Baker



Katherine Outback Experience  
Tourism NT/Shana McNaught



This three-day itinerary explores local gorges, waterholes, waterfalls and thermal springs, showing that this region is a perfect holiday destination for travellers with a thirst for adventure.

Katherine is the gateway to the magnificent Nitmiluk National Park. This is Jawoyn Country where the red sand of the Outback meets the lush tropics, offering the best of both worlds.



### DAY 1

Start your engine and leave Darwin to embark on your 3.5 hour drive south along the Stuart Highway to Katherine.

Break up the trip at **Leliyn (Edith Falls)**. Swimming in the lower pool (seasonal) and upper pool and falls is a must. On your way back from the upper pool, grab a bite and a cool drink from the kiosk and enjoy the picturesque lower falls before leaving.

Katherine is a great base for exploring the nearby gorge country and learning about local Aboriginal culture. Stop in at the galleries in town showcasing **Aboriginal art**, where you can meet the artists, browse the pieces or buy one of your own to take home.

Next stop, refresh yourself with a dip in the **Katherine Hot Springs**, a series of clear pools fed by a natural thermal spring on the banks of the Katherine River.

A must-see while you're in the region is the **Katherine Outback Experience** with Tom Curtain. Tom is equally renowned for his award-winning music skills as he is for his horseman abilities. Watch in awe during his 90 minute show as you witness authentic horse-breaking, a working dog demonstration and performances with his trick horse.

There are many **accommodation options** for tonight. Pitch a tent in Nitmiluk Campground or treat yourself to a luxury experience at Cicada Lodge, next to the Katherine Gorge in the stunning Nitmiluk National Park.

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### Top 10

1. Take a swim or a short hike around **Leliyn (Edith Falls)**
2. Immerse yourself in Aboriginal culture at the **art galleries** in and around Katherine
3. Relax in the thermal waters at **Katherine Hot Springs**
4. Tom Curtain's **Katherine Outback Experience** is sure to entertain with authentic horse-breaking and working dog demonstrations
5. Explore the mighty **Nitmiluk Gorge** by canoe, cruise or helicopter
6. Take your seat under the stars for a real Aussie dinner at **Marksie's Stockman's Camp**
7. Discover Aboriginal culture with **Top Didj Cultural Experience and Art Gallery**
8. Go underground at the **Cutta Cutta Caves**
9. Explore the natural swimming holes in **Elsey National Park**
10. Enjoy a meal at **Adelaide River Inn**, and meet the famous 'Charlie the Buffalo' from the movie 'Crocodile Dundee'



**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**





**DAY 2**

The world-renowned **Nitmiluk National Park** contains 13 gorges carved from the ancient sandstone by the Katherine River. Start your journey at the Nitmiluk Visitor Centre for advice on the many ways you can experience the spectacular gorges!

Board a **river cruise** to see the sheer cliffs, sandy beaches and Aboriginal rock paintings. **Hire a canoe** and set out to explore on the water.

Get a sense of the size and majestic beauty of Nitmiluk from the air – **helicopter flights** take off year-round (weather dependent) from the helipad near the Nitmiluk Visitor Centre or near the gorge at Maud Creek airstrip. Another great way to see this country is on foot. There are plenty of short trails to follow over the sandstone plateau.

Tonight, dine under the stars at **Marksie's Stockman's Camp Tucker Night** in surroundings reminiscent of an outback stockman's camp. You will feast on traditional outback tucker cooked using a range of Aboriginal spices to develop unique tastes. Partake in a scavenger hunt, or sit back and enjoy humorous yarns and stories with your host, Geoff Mark.



**Bitter Springs, Eley National Park**  
Tourism NT/Carmen Huter



**Nitmiluk Boat Cruise, Nitmiluk National Park**  
Tourism NT/Nicholas Kavo



**Top Didj cultural experience**  
Tourism NT/Geoffrey Reid



**Katherine Township**





Katherine Hot Springs  
Tourism NT/Nicholas Kavo

**DAY 3**

The **Top Didj Art Gallery and Aboriginal Cultural Experience** offers a chance to meet with local Aboriginal artists. You can get involved and create some of your own artwork and learn traditional painting styles, or try your hand at spear throwing using a woomera. Guests can learn a traditional way to start a fire by using two sticks.

Only 27 km south of Katherine are the **Cutta Cutta Caves** where you can delve 15 metres below the surface to discover limestone caves that were formed millions of years ago and are still growing. The caves are home to a variety of wildlife including the rare orange Horseshoe Bat.

Another hour south is Elsey National Park. Dip your toe in Australian literary, best known as the setting for the Australian novel 'We of the Never Never.' Soak in the warm turquoise water of nearby **Mataranka Thermal Pool**, surrounded by pandanus, paperbarks and palm forest. Then take a walk into Bitter Springs, another spring-fed thermal pool set among palms and tropical woodlands.

On the return journey north to Darwin, stop at Pine Creek for a cool drink. Be sure to check out the mud brick made from termite mounds and local timber used to build the Lazy Lizard Tavern.

The **Adelaide River Inn** is also worth a stopover. Challenge yourself to finish one of their deliciously huge hamburgers and meet 'Charlie' the Buffalo, who starred alongside Paul Hogan in Crocodile Dundee. If war history interests you, it is worth visiting the Adelaide River War Cemetery, a reminder of the impact of WWII on the Territory and commemorating military and civilian casualties.



Cutta Cutta Caves, Katherine  
Tourism NT/Shanaa McNaught

Canoe hire, Nitmiluk Gorge,  
Nitmiluk National Park  
Tourism NT/Nicholas Kavo

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