



**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**

# Short road trip holidays in the Northern Territory



# The Northern Territory is the ultimate road trip holiday destination

A driving holiday is one of the best ways to see the Northern Territory. Whether you are a keen adventurer longing for the open road or you just want to take your time and tick off some of those bucket list items – the NT has something for everyone.

## Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  2 Wheel-drive (2WD)              |  NT Arts Trail                                 |
|  4 Wheel-drive (4WD) <sup>◇</sup> |  Military history                              |
|  Destination highlights           |  Festivals and events                          |
|  Swimming in designated areas*    |  Permit to visit and travel on Aboriginal land |
|  Aboriginal culture               |  Book your National Park Pass                  |

<sup>◇</sup> Some attractions and routes are accessible by 4WD only and may require extensive recovery gear. Please consult local guides, [roadreport.nt.gov.au/home](http://roadreport.nt.gov.au/home) or [nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves](http://nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves) for specific advice on accessibility

\* If a waterway does not have a swimming area sign, do not swim in this area. There may still be danger if there is no sign. Do not swim in adverse conditions such as thunderstorms or severe flooding. Remember to be Crocwise.

All maps and attractions in this guide represent journeys and are not to scale. Drive times are approximate and some permits may apply. Information correct at time of publishing. Please check local conditions before starting your journey.

West MacDonnell Ranges.

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### Driving safety tips

The standard Australian Road Rules apply in the Northern Territory. Please ensure you stick to the speed limit at all times, always wear a seatbelt and be respectful of other road users. Most of the main roads in the Northern Territory are in good condition and suitable for all vehicle types. Large road trains are common on main Territory roads. When driving remotely, please ensure you have the required **permits**, enough fuel and appropriate recovery equipment specific for the area you are travelling to. For more information on how to keep safe on NT roads please visit: [nt.gov.au/driving/safety](http://nt.gov.au/driving/safety)



Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park.

### Mobile network coverage

Most built up areas throughout the Northern Territory have mobile network coverage, however if you are travelling remotely (i.e. Kakadu National Park or Kings Canyon in Watarrka National Park), you may not have full service at all times.

There are Wi-Fi hotspots located at some of the more remote tourist sites in the Northern Territory. Make sure to upload your favourite road trip moments to Facebook or Instagram at these locations and tag **#NTAustralia**.

### Personal safety

It's important to remember that no matter what time of year it is, to always keep hydrated, wear a hat, be sun smart and dress to the conditions.

Always tell someone where you're going.

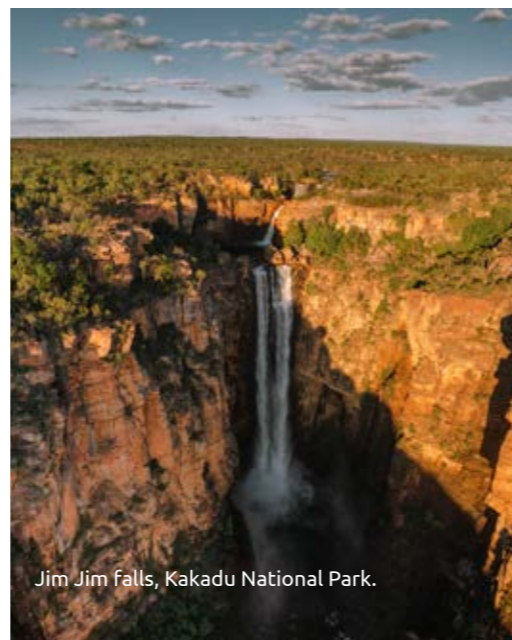
For further detailed information visit: [northernterritory.com/plan/useful-information/safety-information](http://northernterritory.com/plan/useful-information/safety-information)

### Accessible travel tips

For planning information covering accessible accommodation and attractions visit: [northernterritory.com/plan/useful-information/accessibility](http://northernterritory.com/plan/useful-information/accessibility)



Bitter Springs Boardwalk, Elosey National Park.



Jim Jim falls, Kakadu National Park.



Home Billabong, Mary River.



Baruwei Lookout, Nitmiluk National Park.



Fog Dam Conservation Reserve.



Maruku Arts Dot Painting Workshop.



### Visitor Information Centres

There are tourism information centres located in major centres throughout the Northern Territory. We recommend stopping by for the best on-ground and up-to-date advice on things to see and do in the area.

#### Darwin

Top End Travel and Information Centre

Telephone: 08 8980 6000  
Free call in Australia: 1300 138 886  
Email: [info@tourismtopend.com.au](mailto:info@tourismtopend.com.au)  
Website: [tourismtopend.com.au](http://tourismtopend.com.au)

#### Katherine

Katherine Visitor Information Centre

Telephone: 08 8972 2650  
Free call in Australia: 1800 653 142  
Email: [visitor@kvc.nt.gov.au](mailto:visitor@kvc.nt.gov.au)  
Website: [visitkatherine.com.au](http://visitkatherine.com.au)

#### Tennant Creek

Tennant Creek Visitor Information Centre

Telephone: 08 8962 1281  
Free call in Australia: 1800 500 879  
Email: [info@discoverca.com.au](mailto:info@discoverca.com.au)  
Website: [discovercentralaustralia.com](http://discovercentralaustralia.com)

#### Alice Springs

Alice Springs Visitor Information Centre

Telephone: 08 89525 800  
Free call in Australia: 1800 645 199  
Email: [info@discoverca.com.au](mailto:info@discoverca.com.au)  
Website: [discovercentralaustralia.com](http://discovercentralaustralia.com)

### Where to book your National Park Pass

#### Kakadu National Park

Website: [www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu)

#### Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park

Website: [www.parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru)

#### All other NT Parks (where passes apply)

Website: [nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)

### Share your road trip

Instagram [@NTAustralia](https://www.instagram.com/NTAustralia)

Tag us [#NTAustralia](https://www.instagram.com/NTAustralia)

Upload photos [northernterritory.com/share-your-photos](http://northernterritory.com/share-your-photos)

# Short Road Trips (2-5 days)

Buley Rockhole, Litchfield National Park.

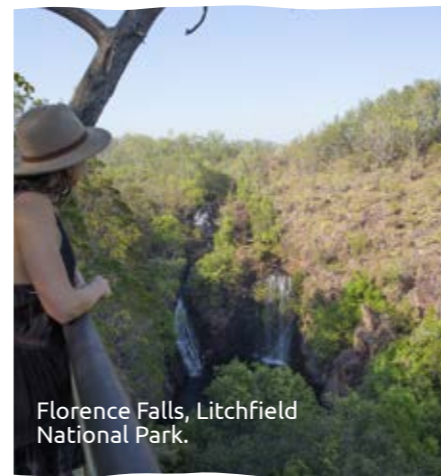
Aiming for a quick getaway to recharge the batteries or perhaps you want to fill your long weekend with jam-packed adventure? One of the Northern Territory short break road trips will tick every box, suitable for all budgets and travel parties. Check out these 2 - 5 day road trip itineraries covering natural icons, cultural experiences and hidden gems to visit on your journey.



Darwin Street Art.



Mindil Beach Casino Resort, Darwin.

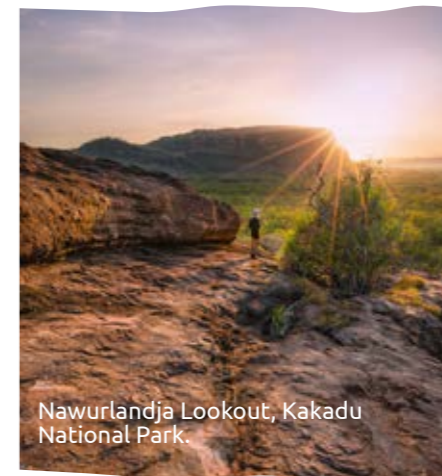


Florence Falls, Litchfield National Park.

**A** 2 DAYS

## Waterfall hopping around Litchfield National Park

START Darwin | END Darwin



Nawurlandja Lookout, Kakadu National Park.

**B** 4 DAYS

## Kakadu National Park explorer

START Darwin | END Darwin

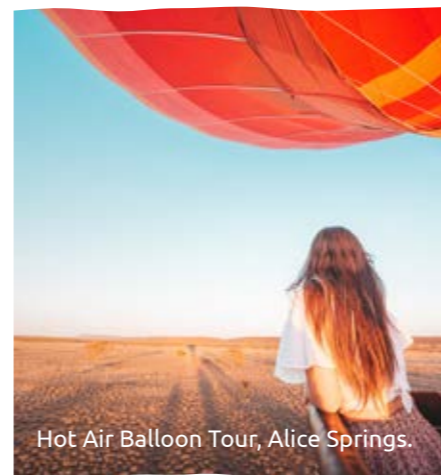


Nitmiluk Gorge, Nitmiluk National Park.

**C** 4 DAYS

## Katherine and Nitmiluk Gorge explorer

START Darwin | END Darwin



Hot Air Balloon Tour, Alice Springs.

**D** 4 DAYS

## Alice Springs explorer

START Alice Springs | END Alice Springs

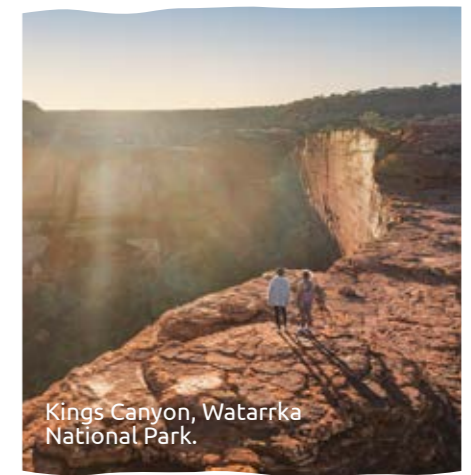


Uluru, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

**E** 4 DAYS

## Uluru and Kings Canyon highlights

START Uluru | END Uluru



Kings Canyon, Watarrka National Park.

**F** 5 DAYS

## Alice Springs, Uluru and Kings Canyon Red Centre Way

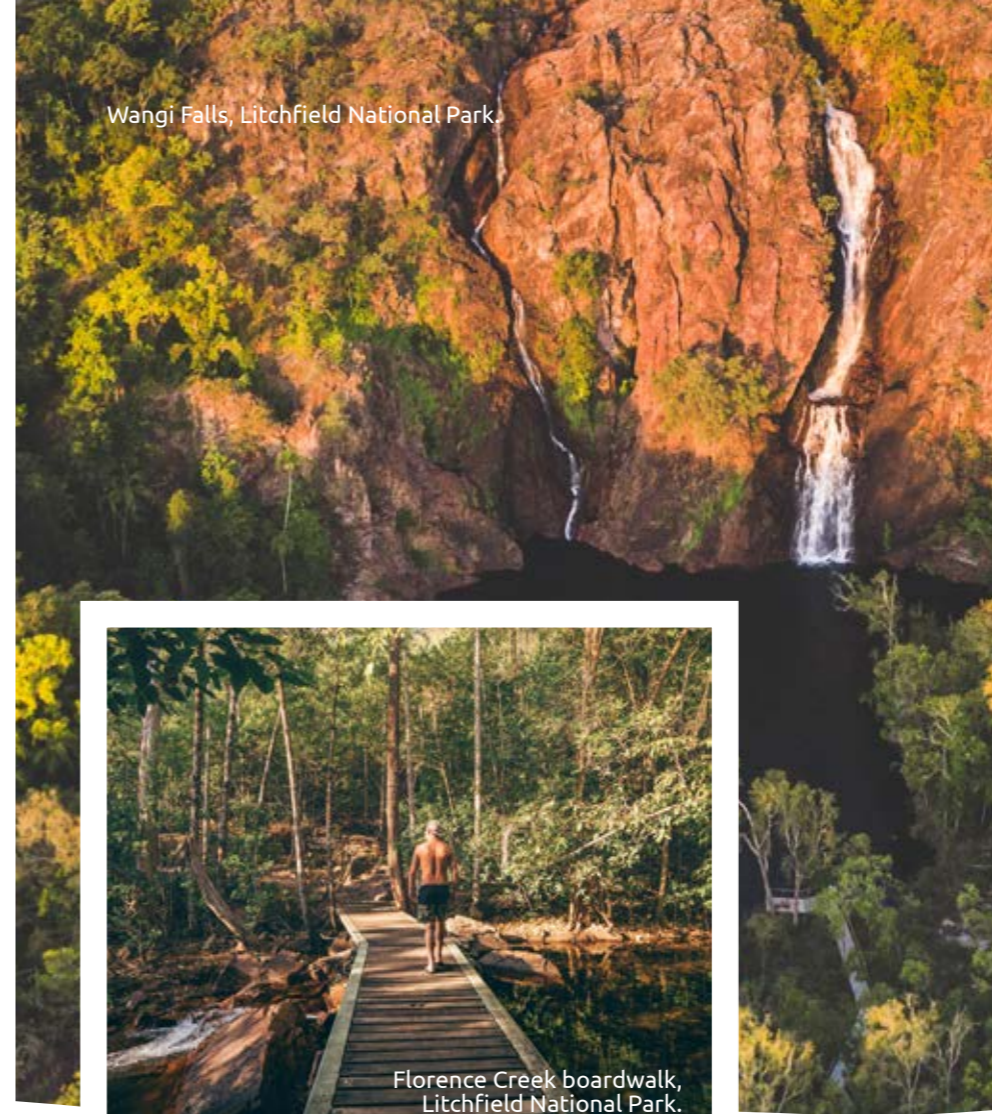
START Alice Springs or Uluru | END Alice Springs or Uluru



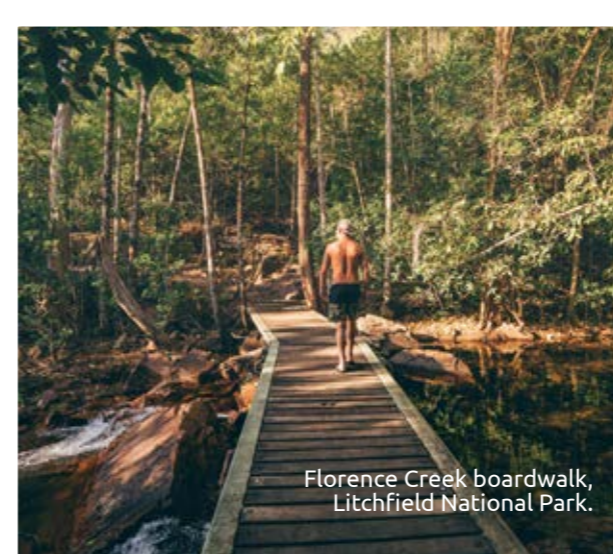
# Waterfall hopping around Litchfield National Park



Florence Falls, Litchfield National Park.



Wangi Falls, Litchfield National Park.



Florence Creek boardwalk, Litchfield National Park.



Crab Claw Island Resort.

## Optional add-on

### Dundee Beach or Crab Claw Island

Instead of heading straight into Litchfield on day one, why not check out **Dundee Beach** or **Crab Claw Island Resort** – both are fast becoming known for the best fishing spots in the Top End. It's one of the most relaxed places to set up camp and enjoy ocean views! Allow two days to get the most out of this area. If you're a keen angler then book your **fishing charter** in advance. (Also, don't forget to register to catch a **Million Dollar Fish**).

### Top End Safari Camp

Combining unique Top End activities with an amazing outback glamping experience – adding on the **Top End Safari Camp** to your Litchfield itinerary is an adventure you won't forget. Situated in an exclusive location off the Finnis River system, the camp showcases some of the best activities and experiences the Top End has to offer. You will stay overnight in deluxe lotus belle tents which have an open air shower and shared toilet facilities. The camp provides you with everything you need to immerse yourself in nature and experience a once-in-a-lifetime Top End adventure.

**A** 2 DAYS  
345 km

Wangi Falls  
Buley Rockhole  
Adelaide River

\* Refer to page 2 for details



## DAY ONE

### Darwin to Litchfield (Wangi Falls)

From Darwin, head south along the Stuart Highway turning onto Cox Peninsula Road towards Berry Springs. Here, you can check out the **Berry Springs Nature Park** where you can try out the first waterhole of many more to come.

Continue along the Cox Peninsula Road, turn left onto Litchfield Park Road and head towards your first waterfall in Litchfield National Park. Wangi Falls boasts not one but two waterfalls that cascade into a large swimming hole. The popular swimming spot is located next to a green lawn area with barbecue facilities for a perfect picnic spot. If you forget to bring your own food, you can purchase lunch from the Wangi Falls Café.

## DAY TWO

### Litchfield to Adelaide River

Spend another day in Litchfield and uncover more waterfalls. Top swimming spots include **Florence Falls** and **Buley Rockhole**, and it's worth your while travelling to the smaller spots such as Walker Creek, Greenant Creek/Tjaetaba Falls and the Cascades. They all have moderate walks no more than 4km return, however please ensure you are well prepared (sun protection and water). Don't leave Litchfield without getting the ultimate photo in the looming silhouette of a **termite mound** (you'll find both cathedral and magnetic termite mounds in the Top End).

Head back to the Stuart Highway and continue for 30 minutes to the township of Adelaide River – an important location in the Top End's military history. Wander through the Adelaide River War Cemetery for a deeper understanding of the impact WWII had on this part of Australia.

Head back to Darwin along the Stuart Highway. This is roughly a two hour drive.

### Food and Drink

**Berry Springs Tavern**, **Wangi Falls Café** (closes 3pm daily), **Litchfield Café, Bar and Bistro**, **Batchelor Butterfly Farm**, and **Adelaide River 303 Bar**

### Accommodation

**Book your camping spot** within Litchfield or head to the nearby town of Batchelor for a range of accommodation options.

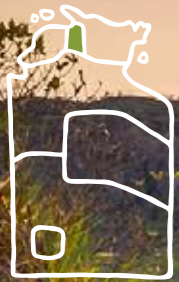
### Tours and activities

**Territory Wildlife Park**, **Barramundi Adventures Darwin**, **Pell Airstrip**, **NT Adventure Park** and **Batchelor Museum**



**Book your Litchfield Park Pass:**  
[nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)

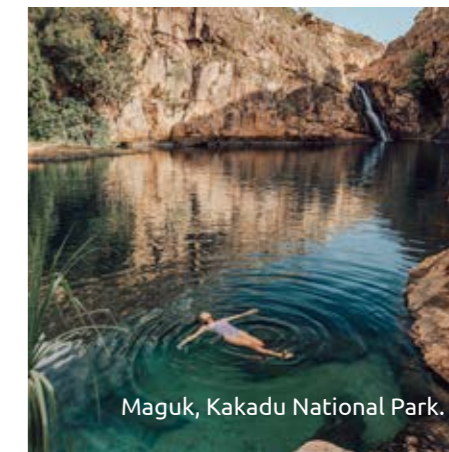
Litchfield National Park is the perfect getaway to spend with family and friends. You can make it as active or as relaxed as you want with plenty of short walks, waterholes and waterfalls to see. Grab some classic road trip snacks and stock up on plenty of water and sunscreen and make sure your road trip music playlist is sorted.



# Kakadu National Park explorer



Nawurlandja Lookout, Kakadu National Park.



Maguk, Kakadu National Park.



Yellow Water, Kakadu National Park.

**B** 4 DAYS  
699 km

Jabiru and Ubirr  
Burrungkuy  
Yellow Water Billabong

\* Refer to page 2 for details



## DAY ONE

### Darwin to Kakadu National Park

Begin your Kakadu adventure from Darwin. An easy three-hour drive along sealed roads. There is plenty to do and see on the way to Kakadu, so take your time to enjoy the journey. Upon arrival into Jabiru, check into your accommodation, then make your way to Ubirr. Take the walk to the top of the lookout in time to watch the sun set over the floodplains. Keep your eyes peeled for local wildlife roaming in the floodplains and learn about the rich Aboriginal culture and history of this area.

## DAY TWO AND THREE

### Kakadu National Park

Make the most of the mornings and afternoons in Kakadu, and rest during the middle of the day (by rest we mean float around in some magical waterhole or jump in a pool at one of the hotels). There are plenty of walks, wildlife to

spot and cultural experiences on offer within the Park. Stop in at the Bowali Visitor Centre, located in Jabiru, to get up-to-date information on road access and daily activities. You can choose to head to Cooida (an hour's drive from Jabiru) where you can stay overnight and book a **Yellow Water Cruise**, visit the Warradjan Cultural Centre and take a walk at **Burrungkuy** to explore the impressive Aboriginal rock art sites. Keep your eyes peeled for the amazing bird and wildlife that call Kakadu home and explore some of the best swimming holes such as Maguk and Jim Jim Falls. A 4WD is recommended to access some of these areas. Check the **Kakadu Access Report** online or visit the Bowali information centre for the latest road access information.

## DAY FOUR

### Kakadu to Darwin

Take your time returning to Darwin. Head back on the Arnhem Highway, or choose to keep travelling south on the

Kakadu Highway towards Darwin via the Stuart Highway. If travelling along the Stuart Highway, you have the opportunity to check out Pine Creek, Adelaide River, Douglas Daly region and Berry Springs.

**Food and drink**  
**Purple Mango Cafe, Anbinik Restaurant, Aurora Kakadu Lodge** or **Mercure Crocodile Hotel** all have a great menu selection

**Accommodation**  
**Anbinik Kakadu Resort, Aurora Kakadu Lodge, Cooida Lodge Kakadu** and **Mercure Crocodile Hotel**

**Tours and activities**  
**Fogg Dam Conservation Area, Corroboree Billabong** and **ranger-guided talks and walks** and **much more**

**Book your Kakadu National Park Pass:**  
[parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/plan/passes](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/plan/passes)



## Optional add-on

### Aboriginal rock art

To explore more Aboriginal rock art exclusively, choose to extend your stay at **Hawk Dreaming Wilderness Lodge**. Comfortable tented cabins with ensuite and private decks are situated on exclusive land, only accessible through Kakadu Cultural Tours. Leave your car at the border store, just 40 minutes from Jabiru, and be transferred by 4WD vehicle on a small group tour. Explore remote rock art sites and enjoy sunset on the escarpment.

Consider adding on the **Katherine and Nitmiluk National Park itinerary** on page 12.



# Katherine and Nitmiluk Gorge explorer



Cutta Cutta Caves, Katherine.



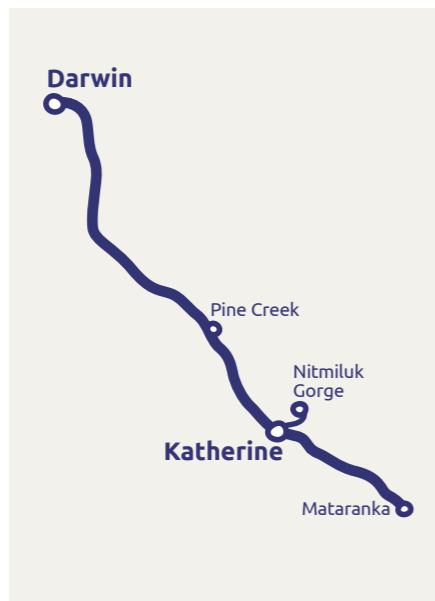
Top Didj Cultural Experience, Katherine.

Boat cruise at Nitmiluk National Park.

**C** 4 DAYS  
635 km

Leilyn Falls  
Katherine Hot Springs  
Nitmiluk Gorge

\* Refer to page 2 for details



## DAY ONE

### Darwin to Katherine

Katherine is an easy three-hour drive from Darwin – straight down the Stuart Highway. Make the most of the journey by stopping off to explore Adelaide River War Cemetery, and the remains of military airstrips from WWII along the way. There is great food and coffee at the Lazy Lizard, and drop into visit Pine Creek to see if you can spot a Hooded Parrot or to just explore the history of the town and area.

Upon arrival into Katherine, make your way to your accommodation, and then head straight to **Katherine Hot Springs**. A perfect introduction to Katherine, the hot springs are surrounded by a beautiful picnic area and some short walks.

## DAY TWO AND THREE

### Katherine region and Nitmiluk National Park

For the next two days you'll be able to explore all that this beautiful region has

on offer. Head to Nitmiluk National Park for the day.

We recommend doing the Baruwei Loop Walk, which takes you to the top of **Nitmiluk Gorge** and gives you magnificent views over the Katherine River and 17 Mile Valley. For a thrilling way to see the gorge, take a helicopter scenic flight, float down the river on a cruise or hire a canoe. There are many optional experiences to choose from at the Nitmiluk Visitor Information Centre, so be sure to pop in to plan your day.

For the avid bushwalker or the hiker at heart, there are loads of tracks on offer that range from easy to difficult. For those who prefer to cast a line, this is your chance to catch an infamous Barramundi! If birdwatching is more your thing, make sure you keep your eyes peeled for the rare Gouldian Finch, fairly common to spot in this area.

You can also experience a taste of local life at **Katherine Outback Experience**, home to a live show fitted out with guitars, dogs, horses, buffalo and more!

## DAY FOUR

### Katherine to Darwin

Just because it's the last day, doesn't mean this is the end of your Katherine road trip. Depart Katherine and head north back to Darwin making a stop at **Leliyn (Edith Falls)** for a dip and to explore. For a moderately challenging walk, take the 2.6km Leliyn Trail which will take you to the upper pool of Leliyn Falls – well worth the effort! At the base of the falls there are great picnic facilities, plus a café for your convenience. Spend a couple of hours here before heading back to Darwin.

**Food and drink**  
**Black Russian Caravan Bar, Finch Café, Maidens Lane, Lazy Lizard, Peakabrew, Pop Rocket Café**

**Accommodation**  
**Nitmiluk Caravan Park, Knotts Crossing Resort, Katherine Holiday Park**

**Tours and activities**  
**Katherine scenic flights, Cutta Cutta Caves, Top Didj Cultural Experience, Pine Creek Railway district, Adelaide River War Cemetery**

## Optional add-on

### Mataranka Thermal Pools and Bitter Springs

For more rejuvenating plunge pool experiences, head south to the **Mataranka Thermal Pools**, just a quick hour's drive south. This is an awesome little stopover that's perfect for everyone. Float in the clear sandy bottomed thermal pools and enjoy the serenity of the area.

Consider adding on the **Kakadu National Park itinerary** on page 10.



Book your Nitmiluk National Park Pass: [nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)



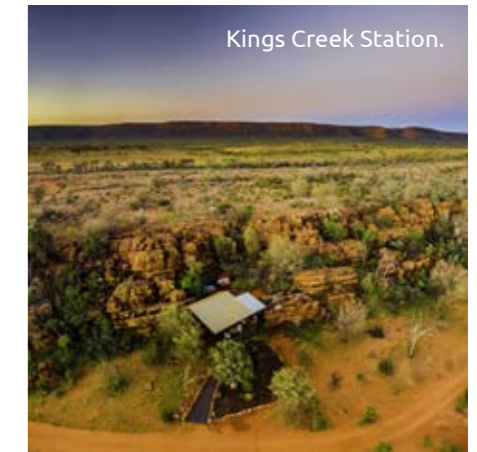
# Alice Springs explorer



Ellery Creek Big Hole, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.



Simpsons Gap, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.



Kings Creek Station.



Ormiston Gorge, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.

**D** 4 DAYS  
243 km

West MacDonnell Ranges  
Hermannsburg

\* Refer to page 2 for details

Alice Springs is just as far away from any beach, as it is close... or so they say. Here we do 'beaches' Red Centre style. Alice Springs will surprise and delight you with lots of activities right at your doorstep. Think swimming holes, awesome rocky landscapes, amazing wildlife and great foodie hang outs. Consider timing your visit with one of the

**quirky festivals** like the Beanie Festival or the Henley on Todd Regatta - you definitely won't regret it!

## DAY ONE

### Alice Springs

Once you arrive in Alice, hire a car and head straight out to Simpsons Gap. Catch the sun going down and be in awe of the changing colours of the rocks. The easy walk to Simpsons Gap is a pleasant one. Keep your eyes out for the local wildlife hanging out on the rock ledges.

## DAY TWO AND THREE

### Alice Springs and West MacDonnell Ranges

The next couple of days are yours to explore in and around Alice Springs. There are plenty of places that are within an easy drive distance. We highly recommend you explore the **West MacDonnell Ranges** and all the

waterholes in between. Our favourites include, Ormiston Gorge and Ellery Creek Big Hole. Venture further and you'll be rewarded with cool waters at Redbank Gorge.

Alice Springs has attractions suitable for everyone. Check out the **Royal Flying Doctors Service**, the **Desert Park**, **School of the Air** and the **Araluen Cultural Precinct**.

You could also choose to drive out to the **Hermannsburg Precinct**, just 150km on, and travel back via the loop to Alice Springs. Discover the history behind this settlement and the importance that it still holds today.

## DAY FOUR

### Alice Springs

You can't visit Alice without an early morning **hot air balloon** experience. With the beautiful clear blue skies, red

desert for days, and amazing views, the best way to see Alice and surrounds is from the peaceful floating sensation of a hot air balloon.

**Food and drink**  
**Casa Nostra, The Goods Coffee Shop, The Locals, Hanuman, Monty's, Epilogue, Page 27, The Bakery**

**Accommodation**  
Alice Springs has a large range of **accommodation** to suit all types of travellers.

**Tours and Activities**  
**Anzac Hill lookout, Earth Sanctuary Astronomy Tours, Nocturnal Tour at the Desert Park, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Reptile Centre, Telegraph Station**

**Book your Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park Pass:**  
[nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)



## Optional add-on

### Larapinta Trail

Test your walking fitness by experiencing the **Larapinta Trail** on a tour. Led by professionals, you will explore some of the 'back tracks' of Alice Springs and some secret waterholes. Enjoy staying in permanent camp sites, hot showers, and hearty meals every night on this journey in the outback.

Try adding on the **Uluru and Kings Canyon highlights** itinerary on page 16.





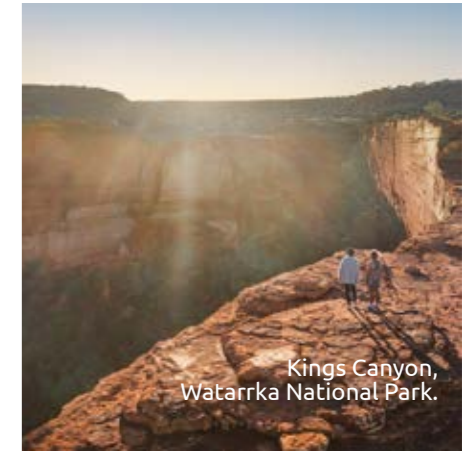


# Uluru and Kings Canyon highlights

Uluru, Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park.



Field of Light Star Pass, Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park.



Kings Canyon, Watarrka National Park.



Walpa Walk, Kata Tjuta, Uluru - Kata Tjuṯa National Park.

**E** 4 DAYS  
649 km

Uluru  
Kata Tjuṯa  
Kings Canyon



## DAY ONE

**Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park**

Upon arriving into Uluru, check into your accommodation and drive to the Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park to witness Uluru up close. Take the short Mala Walk, and visit the Cultural Centre, before making your way to the Uluru Car Sunset Viewing Area for the best sunset views in Australia!

## DAY TWO

**Kings Canyon and Watarrka National Park**

Today take the drive to **Kings Canyon in Watarrka National Park**. Upon arrival, stop by Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience & Tours to partake in a great introductory tour to the rich culture of the region. Take a scenic helicopter flight over Kings Canyon to get the best view of the landscape. Enjoy sunset from your resort. There's something about an outback desert sunset that just takes your breath away.

## DAY THREE

**Kings Canyon Rim Walk and return to Uluru**

This morning, rise early and head to Kings Canyon to do the complete **Rim Walk**. This should take you approximately three to four hours, depending on how long you wish to spend walking around the rim. It really is spectacular, however, it does give your legs a work out. Make sure you have an early start and aim to finish before 10am to avoid the heat of the day. Take lots of water and sun protection.

Drive back to Uluru today, stopping off at Curtin Springs for a break. This evening, take a tour of the Field of Light, a remarkable solar light installation designed by the internationally acclaimed artist Bruce Munro. The Sounds of Silence dinner is also well worth it, and you can even combine the two experiences. You can even enjoy the Sounds of Silence dinner this evening as a combined tour, which is definitely worth it!

## DAY FOUR

**Kata Tjuṯa**

Rise early to view the magnificent sunrise from the **Kata Tjuṯa** viewing platform. This spectacle gives you the best view of the domes which light up as the sun rises. You will have time to do the Walpa Gorge Walk (2.6km), where you can walk between the domes and see them up close.

**Food and drink**  
Ayers Rock Resort has a range of restaurants and bars. Kings Creek Station, Kings Canyon resort, Curtin Springs.

**Accommodation**  
**Ayers Rock Resort, Kings Creek Station, Kings Canyon Resort**

**Tours and activities**  
**Field of Light, Uluru Cultural Centre, Maruku Arts Uluru, Outback Cycling bike hire, Under a Desert Moon, Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience & Tour**

**Optional add-on**

**Kings Canyon Resort**

You can choose to do a pre-packaged tour on the **'Uluru to Kings Canyon overnight delight'** which includes return flights from Uluru to Kings Canyon, land transfers, Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Tour & Experience, guided Rim Walk and some meals.

Or add on the **Alice Springs explorer** itinerary on page 14.

**PARK o PASS**

Book your Uluru Kata Tjuṯa National Park Pass: [parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/plan/passes](http://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/plan/passes)



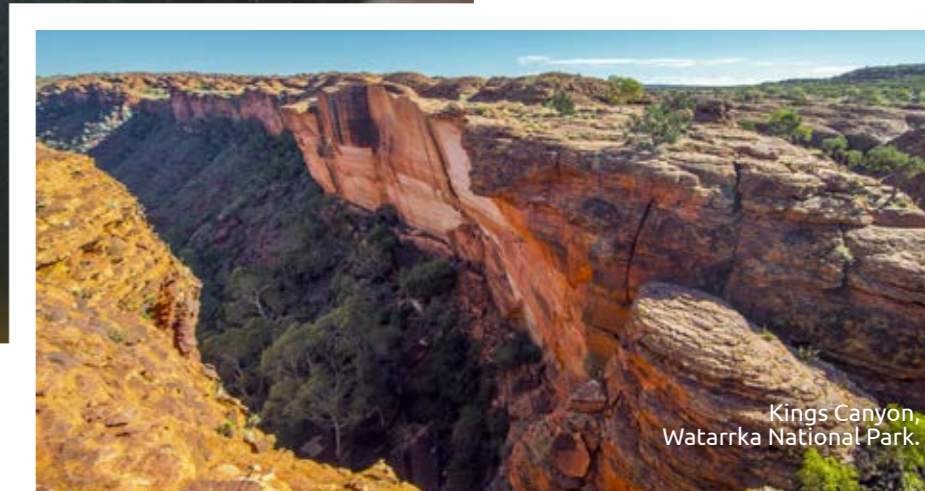
# Alice Springs, Uluru and Kings Canyon Red Centre Way



Ormiston Gorge, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.



Uluru, Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park.



Kings Canyon, Watarrka National Park.

**F** **5 DAYS** 797 km 658 km via Mereenie Loop (4WD only)

Ormiston Gorge  
Kings Canyon  
Uluru

**PARK o PASS**

\* Refer to page 2 for details



## DAY ONE

### Alice Springs to West MacDonnell Ranges

Start the Red Centre Way by driving west through the West MacDonnell National Park to witness a spectacular stretch of natural formations including chasms, gorges and desert waterholes. Explore Simpsons Gap, Standley Chasm, Ellery Creek and Ormiston Gorge just to name a few. Splash, hike or sit back in awe of the landscape – it's truly spectacular!

## DAY TWO

### Alice Springs to Kings Canyon

If you are travelling by 4WD on the Mereenie Loop, continue on from the West Macdonnell Ranges until you come across the ancient impact crater called Gosse Bluff. Hike to the top where you can get spectacular views of the ridges made from the meteorite. Continue driving along the Meerenie Loop until you reach Kings Canyon (4WD only).

If commencing from Alice Springs with a 2WD, drive straight out to Kings Canyon via the Stuart and Lasseter Highways.

## DAY THREE

### Explore Kings Canyon

Wake up early to explore the grand beauty of Watarrka National Park. The Kings Canyon Rim Walk is a three hour hike across 100m-high sandstone walls and ancient palm-filled crevices with stunning views of the arid surrounds. For those looking for a more relaxed option, the Kings Creek Walk provides equally breathtaking views from the canyon floor.

## DAY FOUR

### Kings Canyon to Uluru

Leave the canyon and follow Luritja Road and Lasseter Highway to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Along the way you will pass Mt Conner, commonly known as 'Fooluru', as it's often mistaken for Uluru. Do the unexpected and view the Lake Amadeus salt plains near the Mt Conner look out.

Stop off at Curtin Springs for a refreshing drink and a bite to eat. Once you arrive at Uluru, settle into your accommodation and then head out to one of the viewing platforms to witness the rock change colour at sunset.

## DAY FIVE

### Uluru and Kata Tjuta

See the icons at sunrise, sunset, on a camel or by bicycle. Listen to the local Anangu people as they tell their stories of the Dreamtime. Explore Kata Tjuta on the Valley of the Winds Walk and take in Uluru up-close on the Base Walk. Take your time exploring these icons of Australia's Outback.

You can choose to end your journey in Uluru, or return back to Alice Springs. A direct drive back to Alice Springs will take approximately five hours.

**Food and drink:**  
**Erdunda Roadhouse** (via sealed road), **Curtin Springs**, **Ayers Rock Resort**, **Kings Creek Station**, **Kings Canyon Resort**

**Accommodation:**  
**Curtin Springs**, **Kings Creek Station**, **Kings Canyon Resort**, **Ayers Rock Resort**, **Longitude 131°**

**Tours and activities:**  
**West MacDonnell Ranges**, detour to **Hermannsburg**, **Finke River Adventures**, **free ranger guided activities**, **helicopter flights** over Kings Canyon and Uluru, **quad bike tours** at Kings Creek Station.

**Book your Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National and Watarrka National Park Passes:** [nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)

**Book your Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park Pass:** [parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/plan/passes](http://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/plan/passes)

**\*You will need a permit to travel the Mereenie Loop.** [discovercentralaustralia.com/visitor-information/driving-permits](http://discovercentralaustralia.com/visitor-information/driving-permits)

# Long Road Trips (6+ days)

Arnhem Way, East Arnhem Land.

Kings Canyon Rim Walk.

Edith Falls, Nitmiluk National Park.

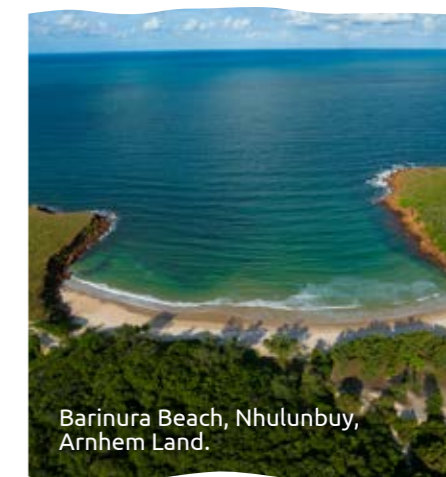
If time is a blessing, and you ache to see the real outback of Australia, the Northern Territory has some great places for the perfect road trip getaway. Some road journeys require a 4WD and some can be driven in a regular vehicle making it more accessible to everyone. Check out these extended road journeys throughout the Top End and Red Centre.



Keep River National Park.



Kakadu Cultural Tours.



Barinura Beach, Nhulunbuy, Arnhem Land.

**G** 14 DAYS\*

**The Gulf and Victoria River region**  
Savannah Way



**START**  
NT/QLD  
Border

**END**  
WA/NT  
Border

\*Full route on the Savannah Way is from Cairns to Broome or vice-versa.

**H** 8 DAYS

**Kakadu and Katherine**  
Nature's Way



**START**  
Darwin

**END**  
Darwin

**I** 7 - 10 DAYS\*

**Katherine and Arnhem Land**  
Arnhem Way



**START**  
Katherine

**END**  
Katherine

\*If starting from Darwin add in 1-2 days. Optional route: Fly into Nhulunbuy and drive to Darwin.



Karlukarlu/Devils Marbles, Tennant Creek.



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

**J** 10 DAYS

**Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine regions**  
Binns Track (4WD)



**START**  
Mt Dare  
(SA border)

**END**  
Timber  
Creek

**K** 14 - 16 DAYS\*

**Alice Springs to Darwin**  
Explorers Way



**START**  
Alice Springs/  
Darwin

**END**  
Darwin/  
Alice Springs



Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve.

\*Optional to do the full route from Adelaide to Darwin or vice-versa.



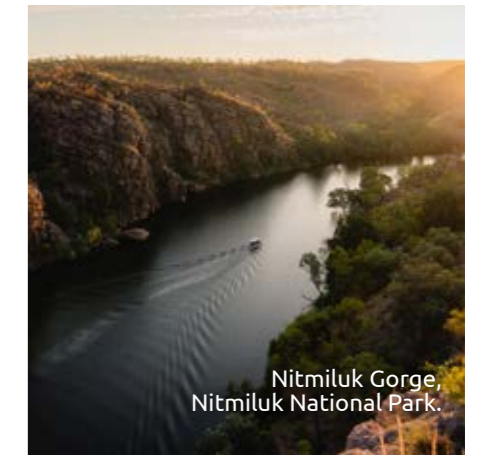
Finke Gorge National Park.



# The Gulf and Victoria River region Savannah Way (4WD)



Judbarra/Gregory National Park.



Nitmiluk Gorge, Nitmiluk National Park.



Keep River National Park.

**G** 14 DAYS  
1407 km

Judbarra / Gregory National Park  
Keep River National Park

Icons: Car, 4WD, Road, Crocodile, Medal, Map

**PARK PASS** ♦ \* Refer to page 2 for details

The Savannah Way travels all the way east to west from Cairns in Queensland\* to Broome in Western Australia or vice-versa.

The Savannah Way offers something for everyone, from picturesque escarpments, huge river systems, waterfalls and some real life 'Aussie outback' experiences. Depending on your vehicle (off-road vs standard), you can choose your own route, but the best part of the Savannah Way is of course in the NT.

\*Make sure to check road conditions before travelling from QLD. The National Highway 1 to Borroloola is unsealed. A sealed road is available from Mount Isa to Three Ways into the NT.

## DAY ONE AND TWO

### NT/QLD border to Borroloola

Welcome to the Northern Territory! Get ready for some of the best outback experiences you've ever had on a road trip. The Savannah Way takes you off the beaten track so it's important to plan your journey before setting off.

Head to Borroloola to stock up on supplies and then head out to King Ash Bay. A fishing hub nestled alongside the McArthur River – the perfect base for some great Barramundi and blue water fishing. Before you wet a line, make sure you are registered for **Million Dollar Fish**.



A yearly competition, where anglers are given the opportunity to claim cash prizes when catching tagged Barra throughout the Top End. The season runs from 1 October – 31 March.

### Optional add on experiences:

If fishing isn't for you, there are two family-owned stations to check out – Manangoora or Seven Emu Station. **Seven Emu Station** is owned by the Shadforth family who are Garawa Aboriginal people, and run tours sharing their cultural and environmental knowledge from working and living on the land. Manangoora is located 60km from Seven Emu and offers bush camps close to the river.

Both offer self-sufficient 4WDers exclusive camping spots. We recommend you phone ahead to ensure access and availability.

## DAY THREE AND FOUR

### Borroloola to Limmen National Park

It's not every day that you drive through magnificent country along the Savannah Way and as part of this journey, we highly recommend (if you have a 4WD) to explore **Limmen National Park**.

Limmen National Park is one of Australia's best hidden gems for camping, 4WDing, fishing and sightseeing. The national park is also known for its hiking experiences, particularly in the Southern Lost City area where you can access the seasonal swimming spot of Butterfly Falls.

There are bush camps available at Butterfly Springs, Limmen Crossing, Towns River and others depending on the season and road conditions. The Western Lost City is accessible via a 4WD track. You will need a key from the Ranger Station to unlock the gate at the start of the 28 km track.

Always remember to Be Crocwise as estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are present in these areas. It's important to be well prepared when visiting the national park by **checking road access** before arriving and travelling with plenty of water and supplies.

## DAY FIVE AND SIX

### Limmen National Park to the Stuart Highway

**Option one:** Travel through some amazing country and head towards the Roper Highway. Please drive carefully. All roads within the national park are unsealed and can be closed due to seasonal flooding from November to May.

**Option two:** If you choose to take the sealed drive route, continue along the Carpentaria Hwy. Travelling through this region, make sure to explore the spectacular formations **Caranbirini Conservation Reserve**. Next stop, head to the iconic Daly Waters Pub located along the Stuart Highway. It has both private rooms and campsites for travellers to book. Wander inside the pub to grab a meal and check out the remarkable collection of mementos left by visitors over the years.



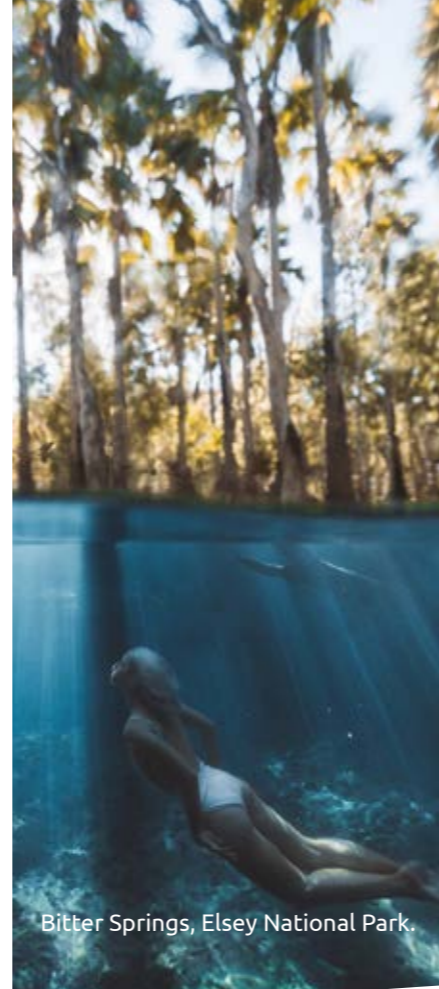
Lost City, Limmen National Park.



Leliyn (Edith Falls).



Canoeing, Nitmiluk Gorge, Nitmiluk National Park.



Bitter Springs, Eley National Park.



Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Art and Culture Centre, Katherine.

## DAY SEVEN AND EIGHT

### To Katherine region

Whether you are coming into Mataranka from Daly Waters along the Stuart Highway or Limmen National Park along the Roper Highway, the area around Eley National Park is an idyllic place to stop off at. Check out both the Mataranka and Bitter Springs thermal pools.

Welcome to Katherine – known as the central hub of the Savannah Way. It may be a welcome break from some hard 4WDing for a few days. Set up camp at one of the local caravan parks around the town, or at **Nitmiluk National Park** – just 30 minutes from town. Katherine gives you a welcome opportunity to stock up on supplies, with all the essential services available. With so much to see and do in the area, you may wish to extend your time here.

In Katherine must-see destinations include the Katherine Hot Springs, Nitmiluk National Park, and **Leliyn/Edith Falls**. Activities to include are **Top Didj Cultural Experience and Art Gallery, Katherine Outback Experience, Cutta Cutta Caves**, cruise down **Nitmiluk**

**Gorge**, take a scenic helicopter flight and much more.

**Food and drink**  
Finch Café, Nitmiluk Café, Pop Rocket Café

**Accommodation**  
**Nitmiluk Caravan Park, Katherine Holiday Park**

**Tours and activities**  
**Top Didj Cultural Experience, Katherine Outback Experience, Nabilil Dreaming Sunset Dinner Cruise.**

## DAY NINE AND TEN

### Katherine to Timber Creek

If hiking is your thing, then a visit to **Judbarra National Park** is a must – the second largest National Park in the NT (outside of Kakadu). From Katherine it's an easy drive along the Victoria Highway. There are plenty of options for camping throughout this region and lots of places to try out your 4WDing skills. Ensure you are adequately prepared and equipped before attempting any of these 4WD tracks. Please refer to the **4WD track Judbarra/Gregory National Park fact**

**sheet** found on the NT Parks and Wildlife website.

The Bullita Stock Route is high on the recommendations – the track is tough but well worth it.

**Giwining/Flora River Nature Park** is a little more 2WD friendly with some great fishing opportunities, generous camping facilities and bush walks.

## DAY ELEVEN

### Timber Creek and Judbarra/Gregory National Park

As you head further west in this great part of the country, you will begin to see the landscape clearly change. This region is full of surprises, and the small town of **Timber Creek** is no exception. There are some great spots to launch a boat, cruise around, take a few walks or just sit back and enjoy your natural surroundings. Swing in to spots like Big Horse Creek Campground, with a boat ramp, toilet facilities and plenty of space to set up for the night. Or head in to Timber Creek and stay at one of the local caravan parks.

While you're in the area make sure you visit **Gregory's Tree**, an important Aboriginal sacred site and registered heritage site. Drive to Nackeroo Lookout for breathtaking views of the area. If fishing is your thing – this is the perfect place to throw in a line. Remember to Be Crocwise.

**Food and drink**  
**Timber Creek, Victoria River Roadhouse**

**Accommodation**  
**NT Parks campgrounds, Timber Creek, Giwining/Flora River Nature Park**

**Tours and activities**  
Fishing, **birdwatching**, bushwalking, Aboriginal Rock Art, **Gregory's Tree**, Old Victoria River Crossing

## DAY TWELVE AND THIRTEEN

### Keep River National Park

One of the most underrated National Parks within the NT borders, **Keep River National Park** is definitely a place you will want to spend some time in. There are plenty of opportunities for bush walking, exploring Aboriginal rock art sites and the best part is some of the

Park is accessible by all vehicle types. Choose to camp at either Goorrandalng or Jarnem. The camping facilities are comparable at both locations, so make sure you are well equipped and enjoy the solitude and bliss of the area for a few days. The landforms in this national park are comparable to other landmarks around Australia, and you will even be able to discover some Aboriginal rock art up close. Make sure you check out the Keep River National Park fact sheet for more information or pop in and chat to the local ranger – they'll be sure to provide the best advice.

## DAY FOURTEEN

### Keep River National Park to WA/NT border

Before you leave the beautiful Territory, remember WA have some strict quarantine guidelines.



**Book your NT Parks Passes:**  
[nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)

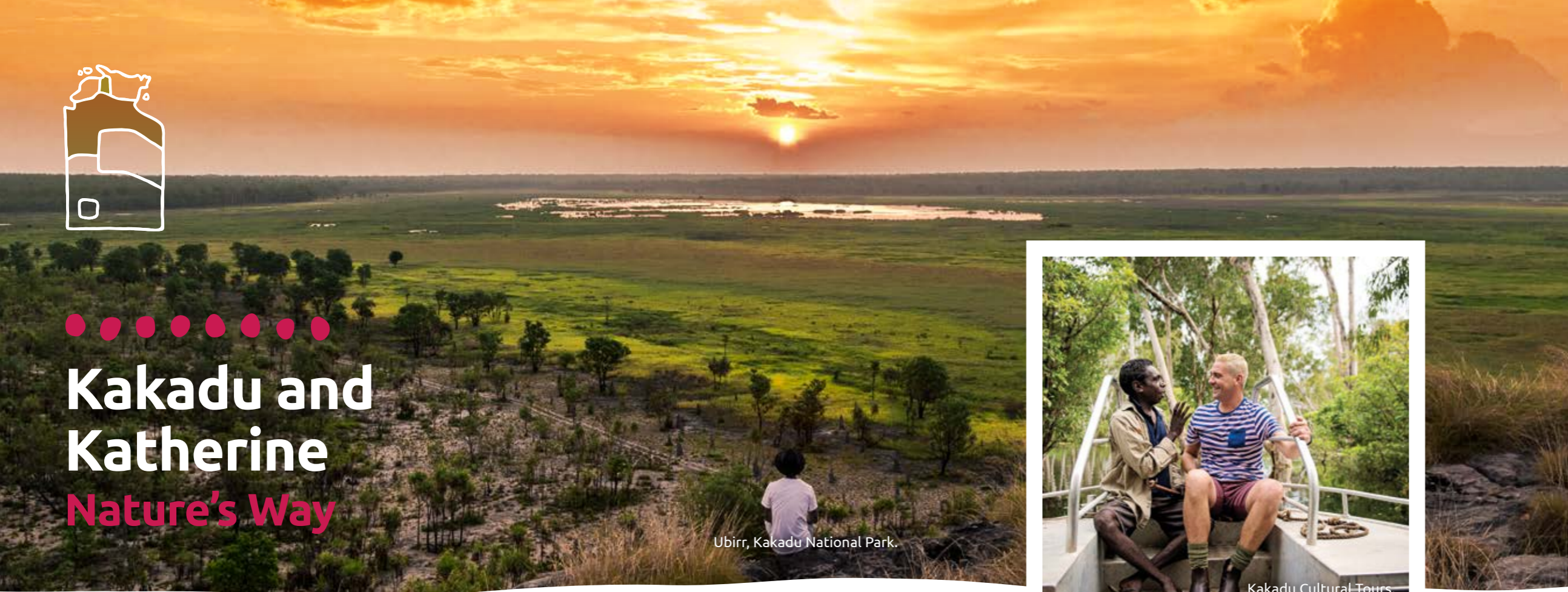
## Optional add-on

### Bullo River Station

Consider a stopover at **Bullo River Station**. A working cattle station that invites people to see what life is really like working off the land. Bullo River will exceed all expectations and you will be spoilt with unique and authentic experiences. There are remote waterholes, helicopter scenic flights, private picnic spots and much more.



# Kakadu and Katherine Nature's Way



Ubirr, Kakadu National Park.



Kakadu Cultural Tours.

choose a slight detour and visit **Litchfield National Park** (2.5 hour's drive).

Litchfield National Park is renowned for its accessible, unspoiled wilderness of monsoon rainforests and waterfalls that flow year-round. Check out the **Litchfield Drive itinerary** on page 8 for more information.

### Food and drink

Finch Café, Nitmiluk Café, Pop Rocket Café, **Maidens Lane, Adelaide River** 303 Bar, **Berry Springs Tavern**

### Accommodation

**Knotts Crossing Resort, Nitmiluk Caravan Park, Katherine Holiday Park**

### Tours and activities

**Top Didj Cultural Experience, Katherine Outback Experience, Nabilil Dreaming Sunset Dinner Cruise, Pine Creek Water Gardens, Leliyn (Edith Falls), Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park**



**Book your Kakadu National Park Pass:** [parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/plan/passes](http://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/plan/passes)

**H 8 DAYS 874 km**

Litchfield National Park  
Kakadu National Park  
Katherine

Icons: Car, 4WD, Road, Wildlife, Cultural, Park Pass

\* Refer to page 2 for details



## DAY ONE

### Darwin to Kakadu on the Arnhem Highway

The rare and unspoilt beauty of Kakadu National Park is only a three-hour drive from Darwin. On your way to the Park along the Arnhem Highway, there are several opportunities to see wildlife. Stop at Corroboree Billabong for a **boat cruise** or try an **airboat safari** experience through the Mary River system for the ultimate way to spot everything from native birds to saltwater crocodiles sunbaking along the banks, known as 'salties' in the Top End.

## DAY TWO TO FOUR

### Kakadu National Park

Kakadu is a World Heritage-listed site and Australia's largest national park. Walk through ancient Aboriginal rock art galleries or join a guided tour to go further afield. Take in the stunning views of the wetlands from above at **Ubirr lookout** – visiting at sunset is sure to be a showstopper.

Take a walk at **Burrungkuy** (Nourlangie) to explore impressive Aboriginal rock

art and learn about the history of the ancient gallery. Visit the **Bowali Visitor Centre** and the **Warradjan Cultural Centre** for a great introduction to the Park to learn about the traditional owners of the area. Cruise the famous **Yellow Water Billabong**. Explore some of the best swimming holes in the Territory including Maguk, Gunlom and Jim Jim Falls. A 4WD is recommended to access some of these areas – check road conditions at the Bowali Visitor Centre for up-to-date road access information.

### Food and drink

Corroboree Park Tavern, **Aurora Kakadu Lodge**, Escarpment Restaurant (Crocodile Hotel), Anbinik Thai Restaurant, Cooinda Lodge Bar and Bistro

### Accommodation

**Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel, Kakadu Lodge, Anbinik Kakadu Resort, Aurora Kakadu, Cooinda Lodge Kakadu**

### Tours and activities

**Fogg Dam, Spectacular Jumping Crocodile Cruise, Helicopter or scenic flight** over Jim Jim and Twin Falls, **Ranger-guided talks and walks, Guluyambi Cruise, Arnhem Land day tour**

## DAY FIVE TO SEVEN

### Kakadu to Katherine via the Kakadu Highway

Head south along the Kakadu Highway towards **Katherine**. There are plenty of caravan parks, national parks, or accommodation options to choose from in the region, making it the perfect spot to base yourself while you explore the area. Take a refreshing dip in the **Katherine Hot Springs** – a series of clear pools fed by a natural thermal spring located on the banks of the Katherine River. Don't miss out on Nitmiluk Gorge, where you can either cruise or canoe, or just enjoy some of the bush walking tracks in the Park. Travel further south for just over an hour to check out the clear warm pools of **Mataranka** and **Bitter Springs** in Elsey National Park.

## DAY EIGHT

### Katherine to Darwin

Head back to Darwin along the Stuart Highway – roughly a three-hour drive. If you leave early enough, stop in at **Leliyn (Edith Falls)** for a quick swim in the cool waters (one hour from Katherine) or

## Optional add-on

### Umbrawarra Gorge

The turn off to Umbrawarra is between Pine Creek and Katherine off the Stuart Highway. Please ensure you check the road conditions prior as it may not be recommended for some vehicles during certain times of the year. There is a small campsite with a composting toilet, and you may have small cooking fires here. The campground is not far from the gorge entrance, and there is a 1km walk along a creek which leads to the gorge. You can do some extra swimming and rock hopping through the gorge to access some more beautiful and private swimming spots, well worth the extra effort if you are up for it.



# Katherine and Arnhem Land

## Arnhem Way (4WD)

Banubanu Beach Retreat, Bremer Island, Arnhem Land.



Sunset drinks at Gove Boat Club.

### DAY SEVEN

#### Nhulunbuy

Take a day to recoup from your island escape. Get the car fuelled and packed up ready for the road trip back to Katherine.

Once you reach the Stuart Highway, you may choose to either head north towards Katherine and Darwin or south towards Daly Waters and the Red Centre. If you are really loving this untouched landscape, why not head along the **Savannah Way**? Travel east to explore **Limmen National Park**, or west towards the spectacular Victoria River region. Whichever direction you go, the NT won't disappoint.

#### Food and drink

**Mainoru Outstation** store (make sure you get extra supplies – fuel, food and water), **Gove Boat Club**, **Walkabout Lodge**

#### Accommodation

**Mainoru Outstation**, **Walkabout Lodge**, **Gove Boat Club**, **Gove Peninsula Motel**, deluxe (glamping) **beach front accommodation** on Bremer Island

#### Tours and activities

**Djilpin Arts Centre**, nature walks around the Mainoru Outstation, Giddy River, Buffalo Creek, Little Bondi (apply for permits through **Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation**). Beach combing, relaxing, turtle spotting, fishing, and Aboriginal cultural tours on Bremer Island.



\*You will need a permit to travel into Arnhem Land. [eastarnhemland.com.au/plan/access-permits](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/plan/access-permits)

With Nhulunbuy as your base camp, set out and uncover iconic landscapes at one of the Dhimurru Recreation Areas. Choose from a wide range of settings; from sandy white beaches and rugged coastlines to open forests and shaded inland waterways, all located just one to two hours from Nhulunbuy. Pack a picnic and head out for the perfect day trip exploring Arnhem Land. Visit **Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation** website for more information and to apply for permits.

### DAY FIVE AND SIX

#### Bremer Island

Leave the car for a couple of days in Nhulunbuy and escape to an island. Make your way to Bremer Island via a leisurely one-hour boat ride, or a 10-minute charter flight. Arrive at **Banubanu Wilderness Retreat** on Bremer Island, an eco-escape paradise in the Northern Territory. Take this opportunity to relax, recharge your batteries and live the island lifestyle for a few days. Take part in guided walks, spearfishing, turtle watching or just chill out on the pristine white beach.

## Optional add-on

#### Bremer Island to Nhulunbuy

With so much to see and do why not stay for an extra day and have a blue water **fishing experience** with one of the charters available. If fishing isn't your thing then charter a scenic flight to witness this amazing part of the world from the sky.

### DAY ONE

#### Katherine to Mainoru Outstation

Start in **Katherine** (3 hours' drive south from Darwin).

Begin your journey in the township of Katherine, where the outback meets the tropics. For inspiration on what to do in the Katherine region, check out the **Kakadu and Katherine** itinerary on page 28. Make sure you are well equipped with enough food, water and fuel.

The first leg of your drive will take you south of Katherine towards Mataranka, before turning off onto the Central Arnhem Highway. Travelling just over 250km today on mostly unsealed road, this route is off-the-beaten-path. Take the driving easy and consider breaking your journey with stop offs at either the friendly community of Barunga (home of the Barunga Festival) or Beswick where you can browse local arts and crafts at Djilpin Arts. We suggest you contact well ahead to check opening hours. Take an overnight break at **Mainoru Outstation**.

### DAY TWO

#### Mainoru Outstation to Nhulunbuy

The Arnhem Highway continues for another 480km (unsealed) where you will reach the main town of East Arnhem Land, Nhulunbuy (also known as Gove). The road may be unpredictable, so ensure you take your time, be prepared and most of all, appreciate the remoteness of the land you are discovering.

When you arrive in **Nhulunbuy**, reward yourself with a sunset drink at the Gove Boat Club and take in a famous Top End sunset.

### DAY THREE AND FOUR

#### Nhulunbuy and surrounds

For the next two days, enjoy the remarkable natural surroundings of East Arnhem Land. Stop off at Yirrkala to visit the **Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre** (15-minute drive off the Central Arnhem Road). This art centre is worth the short detour; here you can view authentic pieces of art and craft created by local Aboriginal artists.



**I 7 - 10 DAYS**  
**729 km (one way)**

Mainoru Outstation  
Nhulunbuy  
Bremer Island

Icons: 4WD vehicle, unsealed road, permit, wildlife, person with gear, boat, sunset.

♦ \* Refer to page 2 for details

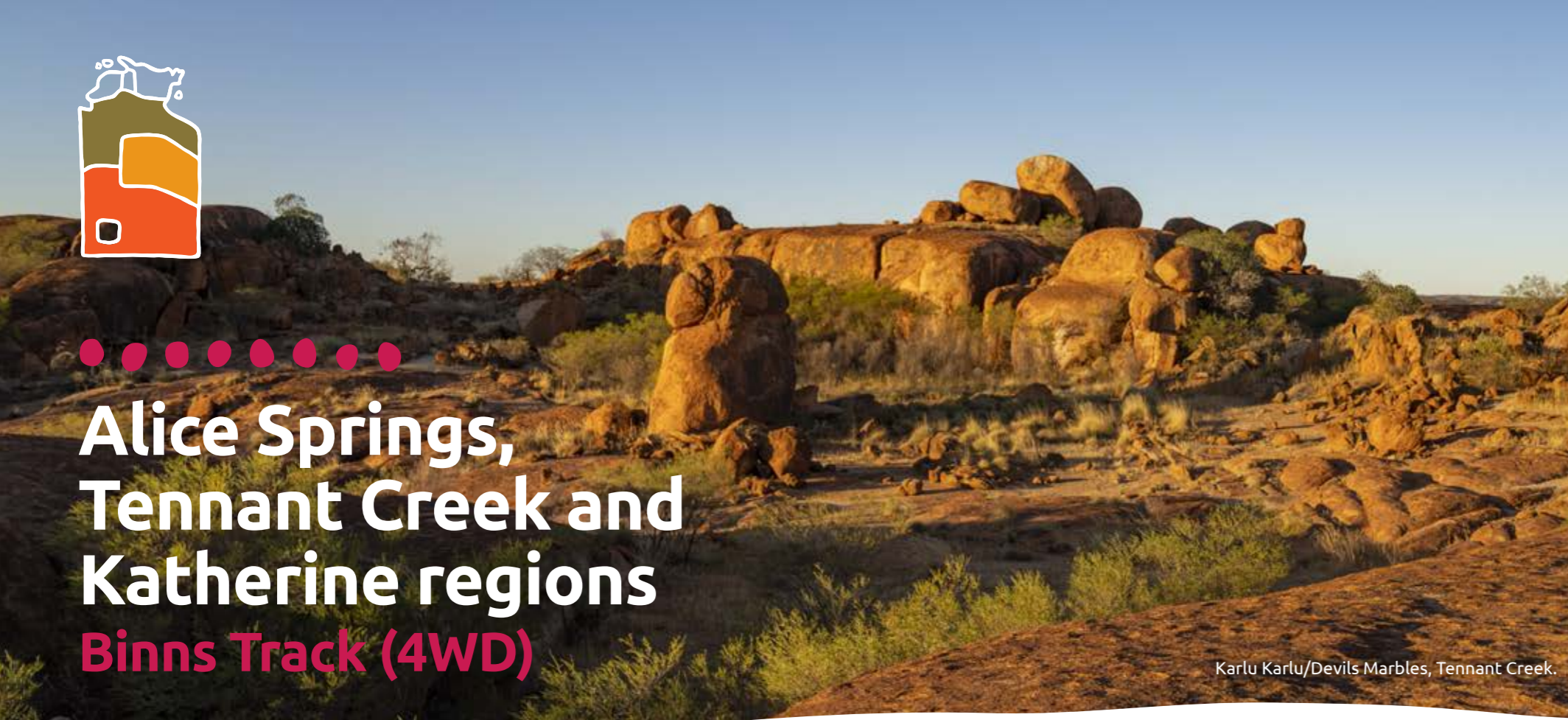
Considered one of Australia's last unspoilt areas, Arnhem Land is just waiting for you to discover. The Central Arnhem Road starts 50km south of Katherine and finishes in Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula. This route will take you on an adventure through open savannah woodlands as you cross creeks and spot a variety of wildlife. Please note that when travelling to Arnhem Land you will require entry permits in advance. Contact: Tourism East Arnhem via [www.eastarnhemland.com.au](http://www.eastarnhemland.com.au) or call **1800 512 460**.





# Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine regions

## Binns Track (4WD)



Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles, Tennant Creek.



Hot Air Balloon Tour, Alice Springs.

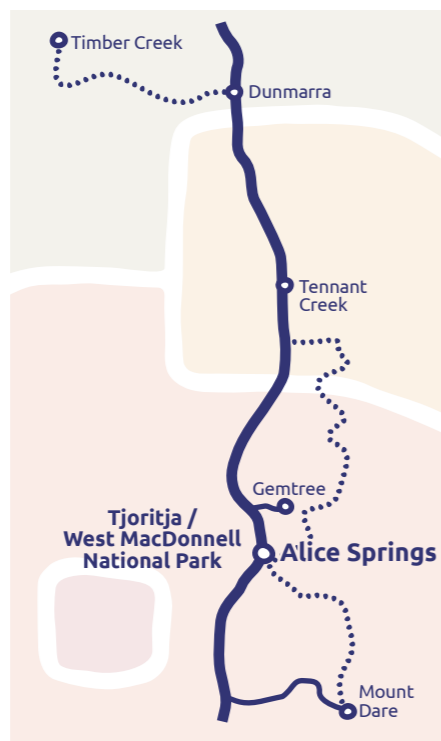


Barrow Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve.

**J** 10 DAYS  
2230 km

East MacDonnell Ranges  
Tennant Creek region  
Katherine region

**PARK PASS** ♦ \* Refer to page 2 for details



### DAY ONE AND TWO

#### Mt Dare to Alice Springs

Starting from the SA/NT border up to Timber Creek, the Binns Track was created to allow tourists to explore regions of the NT that were bursting with colours, native wildlife and mighty rock formations.

Set off on the Old Andado Track to Alice Springs. Flanking the western fringe of the Simpson Desert, the track passes sand ridges 5-8m high and meanders through the Finke River flood-out. Enjoy a picnic lunch at Molly Clark's Old Andado Homestead and unwind in its old-world charm. Take a night or two to enjoy **Alice Springs**.

### DAY THREE AND FOUR

#### Alice Springs to Gemtree

Continue on to Ruby Gap Nature Park (4WD access only) and keep a lookout for native birds and wildlife along the river bed. If you wish to stay the night, set up your campsite along the river bed. Follow the Pinnacles Track to Gemtree on the Plenty Highway, through the breathtaking scenery of the rugged Harts Ranges. Camp overnight at a

powered or unpowered caravan and camping site, or in a cabin. Try your luck fossicking for semi-precious stones such as zircons and red garnets.

#### Food and drink

There is a large selection of restaurants and cafes to choose from in Alice Springs.

#### Accommodation

There is a variety of accommodation options in and around Alice Springs to suit all types of travellers.

#### Tours and activities

**Hot air ballooning, camel ride, Alice Springs Desert Park, Gemtree Tours**

### DAY FIVE AND SIX

#### Gemtree to Tennant Creek

Continue on to **Iytwelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park**. Embrace the serenity or jump in and cool down in the water. Travelling from the Ranges to Tennant Creek, take a short detour to **Karlu Karlu** which is home to the massive granite boulders and a must do on your Binns Track itinerary. Walk amongst these ancient boulders that stand up to 6m high. Best to visit at sunrise or sunset when they glow red and change colour. Be sure to bring your camera for this truly beautiful sight.

### DAY SEVEN AND EIGHT

#### Tennant Creek to Dunmarra

Stopover in Tennant Creek to explore its many fascinating historical attractions such as the Battery Hill Mining Centre, the Telegraph Station and Lake Mary Ann. Continue north driving past expansive cattle stations and limestone landscapes. Soak up the history of the Frews Ponds Overland Telegraph Line Memorial Reserve. Created as a tribute to Sir Charles Todd, this heritage attraction pays homage to the building of the Overland Telegraph Station.

### DAY NINE AND TEN

#### Dunmarra to Timber Creek

You'll drive along an unsealed road passing through Bullita Homestead (also a great place to set up camp). Explore the houses and original timber stockyards of the region's pioneers. Continuing along the track, you'll pass interesting rock formations along Limestone Creek and then arrive at your final destination, **Timber Creek**. Here you can catch a glimpse of the early life in the NT at the Police Station Precinct.

#### Food and drink

Dunmarra Wayside Inn, Memorial Club, Timber Creek hotel

#### Accommodation

**Tennant Creek Caravan Park**, Dunmarra Wayside Inn, Timber Creek

#### Tours and activities

Walk to view the 52 original Oppenhiemer poles from the telegraph line, **Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre**



**Book your NT Parks Passes:**  
[nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)

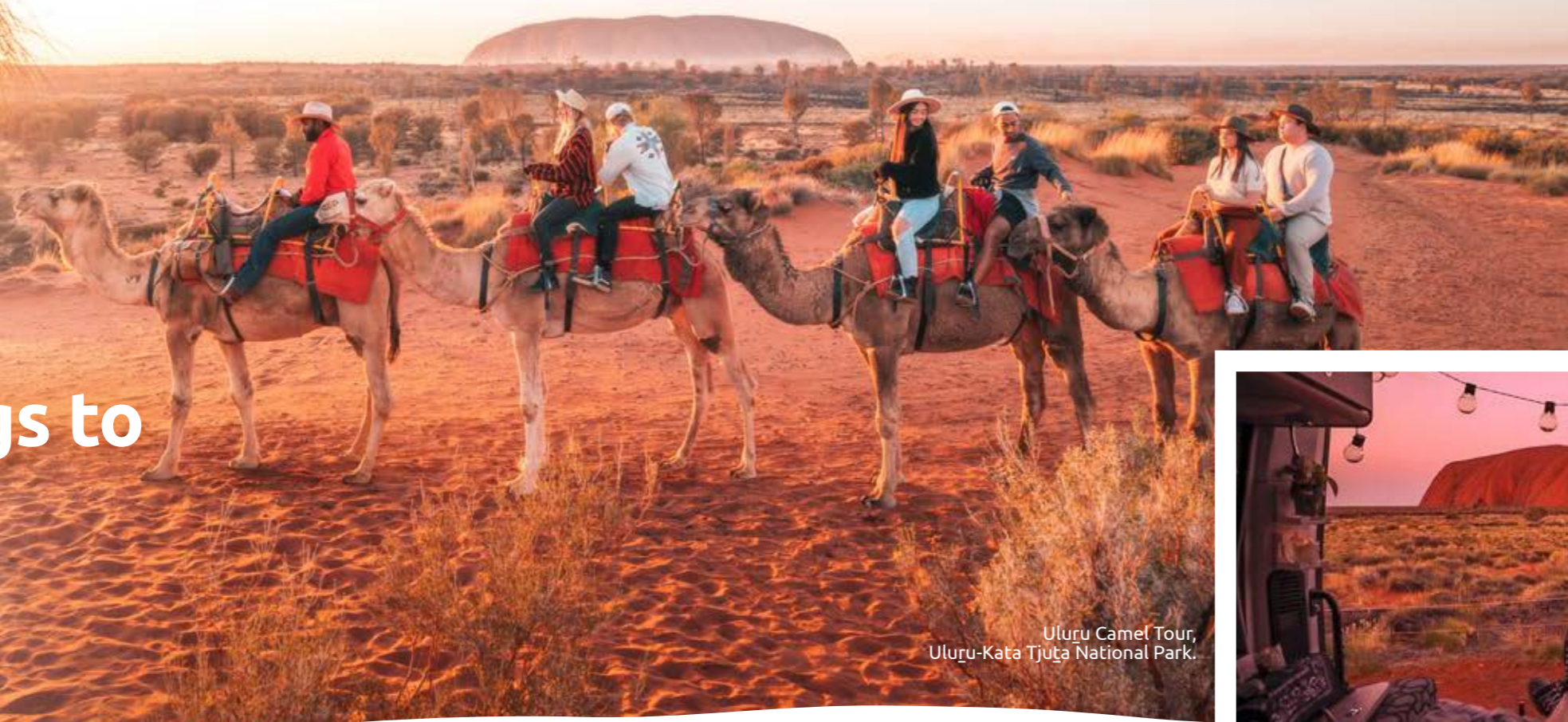
## Optional add-on

### West MacDonnell Ranges

Spend a few extra days and check out the gorges, waterholes and world-class hiking trails in the West MacDonnell Ranges west of Alice Springs.



# Alice Springs to Darwin Explorers Way



Uluru Camel Tour,  
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.



Karrke Aboriginal Cultural  
Experience & Tours.



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

**K** 12 DAYS  
approx 2230 km

Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP  
Tennant Creek region  
Katherine region

**PARK o PASS** \* Refer to page 2 for details



One of the great Australian road trips is without a doubt from Adelaide to Darwin, along the Explorers Way. Passing some of Australia's favourite natural icons, including Uluru and Kata Tjuta, Watarrka National Park/Kings Canyon, MacDonnell Ranges, Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles, Nitmiluk National Park and Litchfield National Park. The journey follows the famous explorer, John McDouall Stuart, who was the first European to successfully cross Australia south to north and establish a route to the coastal region of the Northern Territory.

## Travelling from South Australia

Spend the first five days travelling through outback South Australia, stopping in at some of the small coastal towns. Take in the southern and central Flinders Ranges and make sure you stay overnight at Coober Pedy.

### DAY ONE AND TWO

#### Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Once you drive across the Northern Territory border, make a beeline for Australia's ultimate icons. Discover the beauty of **Uluru** and **Kata Tjuta** – this desert region is blessed with natural wonders, world-class dining experiences and ancient Aboriginal culture.

There's an abundance of things to see and do within the Park. Stop in at the Cultural Centre to learn about the significance of the area to the local Anangu people – the traditional custodians of Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

Sunrise and sunset are the best times to admire the incredible scenes of the outback. Remember to take some chairs and 'sunset refreshments' so you can really make the most of this special moment on your Explorers Way journey.

Take a walk or ride around Uluru, follow the Walpa Gorge Walk (2.6km return) to admire the shapes of the domes of Kata Tjuta, and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife in the desert.

#### Accommodation

**Ayers Rock Resort** offers a range of accommodation options from camping to four-star apartments or stay in luxury at **Longitude 131°**

### DAY THREE

#### Uluru to Kings Canyon

Leave Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and drive 300km back along the Lasseter Highway and Luritja Highway to reach Watarrka National Park/Kings Canyon. This majestic destination features 100 metre-high sandstone walls, walking trails and views that will leave you speechless.

### DAY FOUR

#### Kings Canyon/Watarrka National Park

For an unforgettable view of Kings Canyon, rise before dawn and follow the 6km trail along the Kings Canyon Rim Walk. There are other smaller walks on offer so make the most of your time here and explore as much as possible.

#### Food and drink

**Aninti Café** at the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre, Yulara town square offers a café, Asian restaurant and a supermarket to stock up on all your needs, **Curtin Springs Station**, **Kings Canyon Resort** and **Kings Creek Station**, **Under a Desert Moon**

#### Accommodation

**Ayers Rock Resort**, **Kings Canyon Resort**, **Kings Creek Station**

#### Tours and activities

**Free ranger-guided activities**, **Uluru Camel Tours**, **Maruku Arts**, **Curtin Springs walks**, **Kings Canyon scenic helicopter tours**, **Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience & Tours**



Kings Canyon, Watarrka National Park.



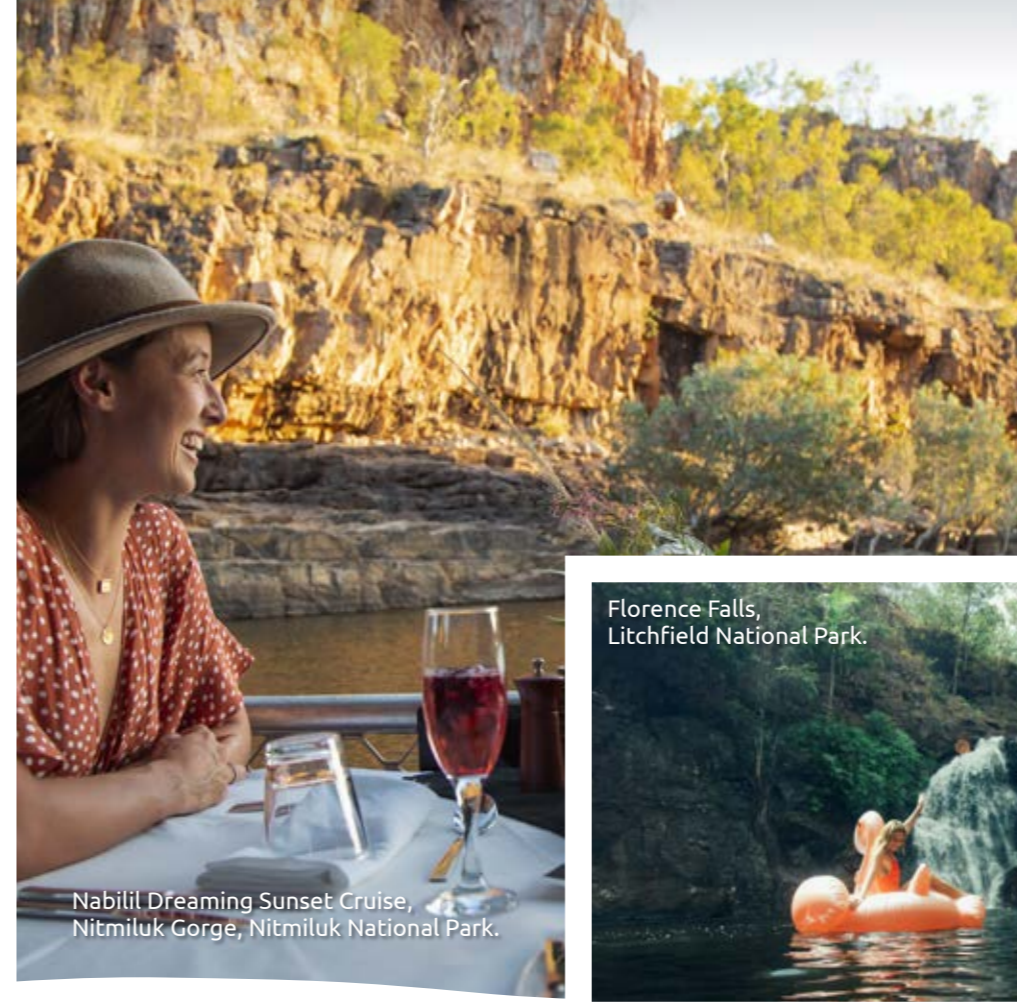
Standley Chasm, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.



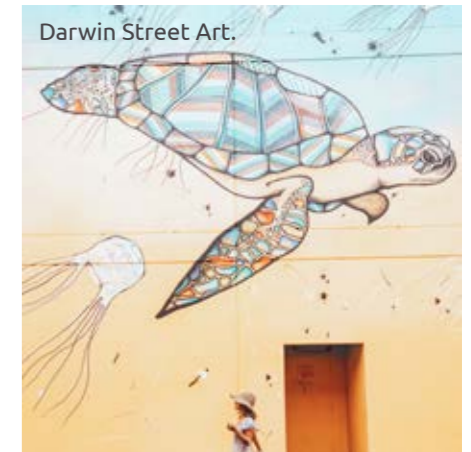
Karlukarlu/Devils Marbles, Tennant Creek.



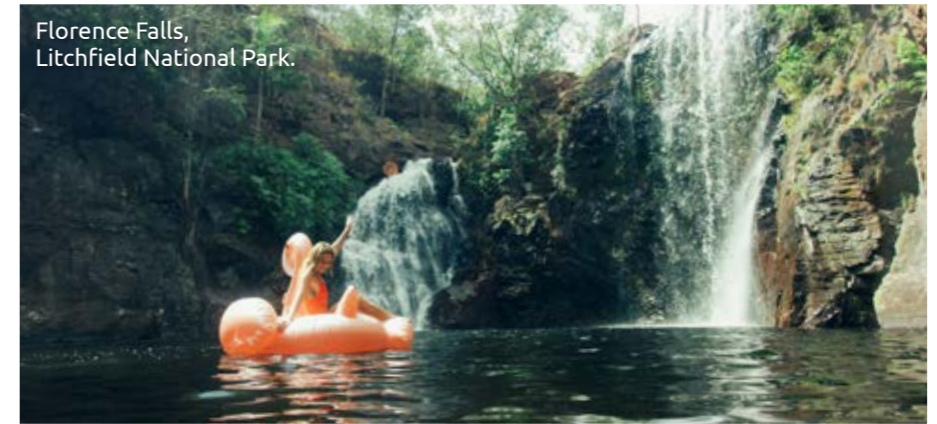
Ellery Creek Big Hole, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.



Nabilil Dreaming Sunset Cruise, Nitmiluk Gorge, Nitmiluk National Park.



Darwin Street Art.



Florence Falls, Litchfield National Park.

## DAY FIVE

### Kings Canyon to Alice Springs

Once you get back on the road, head to the NT's second largest town, Alice Springs. If travelling by four-wheel drive, take the Mereenie Loop, or travel along the sealed Luritja and Lasseter Highways, before turning north onto the Stuart Highway towards Alice Springs.

## DAY SIX

### West MacDonnell Ranges

The West MacDonnell Ranges are an easy day trip from Alice Springs along a sealed road. There are many stops along the way to enjoy. Walk along the trail at Simpsons Gap or stand between the sheer walls of Standley Chasm. To cool off why not enjoy a swim at Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge or Redbank Gorge.

## DAY SEVEN

### Alice Springs to Tennant Creek

On your journey from Alice Springs to Tennant Creek, take the time to stop at

**Karlukarlu/Devils Marbles**, a sacred site to the Warumungu people. These massive ancient granite boulders are strewn across a wide shallow valley, and continue to crack and change.

## DAY EIGHT

### Tennant Creek to Daly Waters

As you travel further north, you will notice how the environment around you is changing. The **Daly Waters Historic Pub** is a popular place to stay overnight that offers backpacker, hotel or cabin rooms. The pub and grounds are crammed with memorabilia revealing the pub's colourful history and those who have passed through its doors. Set up camp for the night and make the most of this notoriously characteristic pub.

**Food and drink**  
**Sporties Steak and Grill, Mataranka Homestead, Daly Waters Historic Pub**

**Accommodation:**  
**Tennant Creek Caravan Park, Eldorado Motor Inn, Katherine Holiday Park, Manbullo Homestead Caravan Park, Shady Lane Tourist Park**

**Tours and activities**  
**Nyinka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre, Daly Waters Historic Pub, Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, Tingkarli/Lake Mary Ann, Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, canoeing in Nitmiluk Gorge, Nitmiluk Gorge scenic flight**

## DAY NINE

### Daly Waters to Katherine

As you make your way towards Katherine, take a break from driving and enjoy a rejuvenating swim in the **Mataranka Thermal Pool**. Fed by spring water in the Daly and Georgina basins, it is surrounded by a palm forest and its waters are a constant 34 degrees celsius.

Katherine is the NT's fourth largest town, and a perfect base to check out the nearby gorge country. Why not explore the vast Nitmiluk National Park's thirteen gorges via a helicopter joy flight, canoe or join a guided boat cruise. For more information about what to do around this area see the **Kakadu and Katherine Nature's Way** itinerary on page 28.

## DAY TEN

### Katherine and surrounds

Spend the day in Katherine and take in the beautiful surroundings of Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge with plenty of activities on offer; visit the hot springs within the township of Katherine and take the option of squeezing in a visit to **Leliyn** (Edith Falls).

## DAY ELEVEN

### Katherine to Litchfield

Litchfield National Park is only a 90-minute drive from Darwin. Its unspoilt beauty makes the natural water playground a popular spot with day trippers who come from the city for a dip at Florence Falls, Buley Rockhole and Wangi Falls. Walking tracks, camping facilities and 2WD and 4WD accessible tracks means there is an adventure to suit everyone. For more information check out the **Litchfield itinerary** on page 8.

**Food and drink**  
**Finch Café, Nitmiluk Café, Pop Rocket Café, Lazy Lizard**

**Accommodation**  
**Nitmiluk Caravan Park, Knotts Crossing Resort, Katherine Holiday Park, Litchfield Safari Camp**

**Tours and activities**  
**Katherine scenic flights, Cutta Cutta Caves, Top Didj Cultural Experience, Litchfield National Park, Helicopter Flights**

## DAY TWELVE

### Litchfield to Darwin

You have made it! You are officially an 'explorer'. Take your first glimpse of the Timor Sea as you come into **Darwin**, Australia's northern-most capital city. You will find yourself in a contemporary multicultural metropolis of open-air markets, festivals, Asian influenced cuisine, and an outdoor lifestyle.

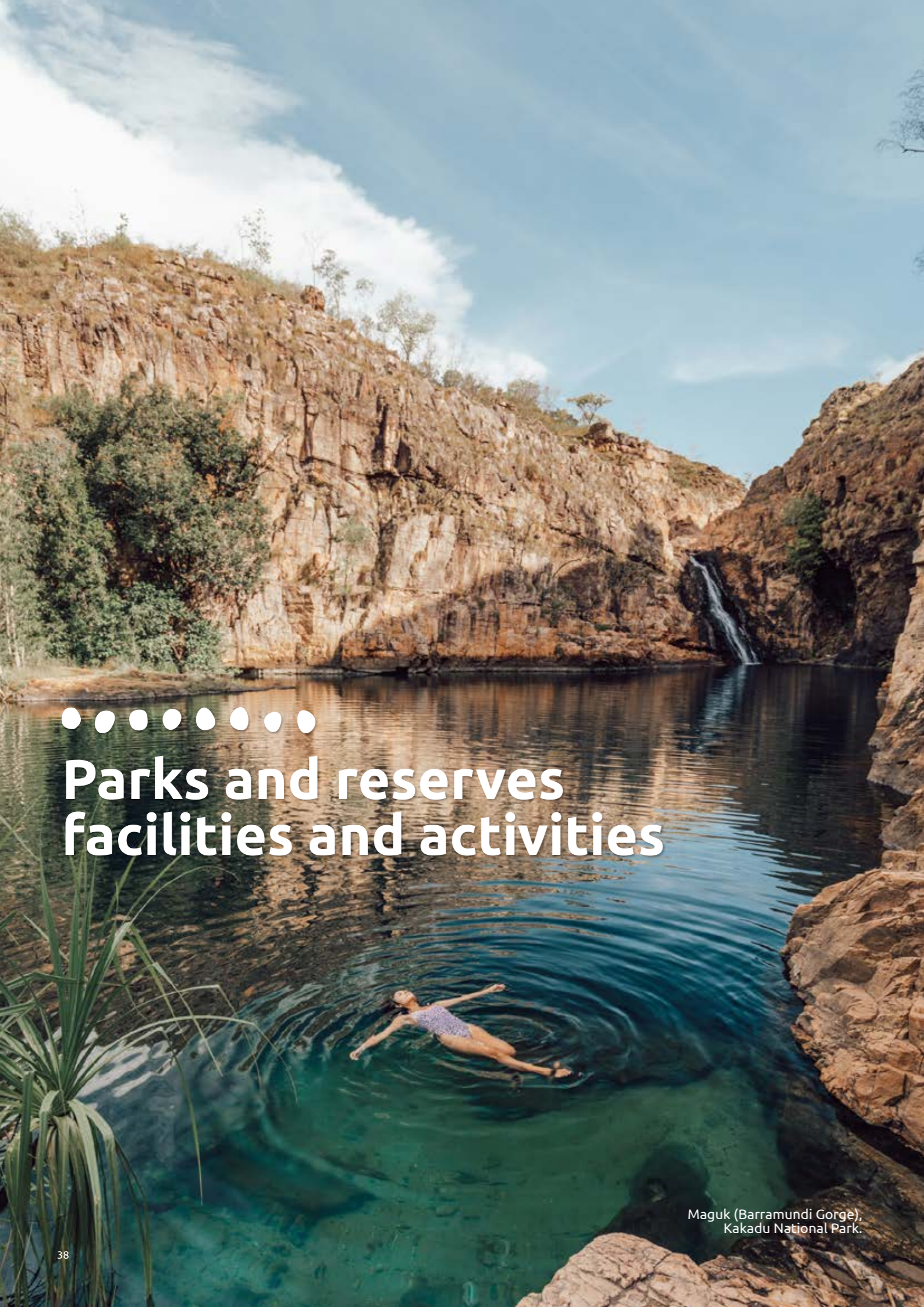
**Optional add-on**

**Extra nights**

To really make the most of this drive, we highly recommend adding on extra nights in locations such as **Alice Springs, Kings Canyon, Uluru, Tennant Creek** and **Katherine**.



**Book your NT Parks Passes:**  
[nt.gov.au/parks](http://nt.gov.au/parks)



# Parks and reserves facilities and activities

Maguk (Barramundi Gorge), Kakadu National Park.



# Darwin Region

Parks and reserves facilities and activities

Sandy Creek Falls, Litchfield National Park.

	INFORMATION	RANGER STATION	4WD	BBQ FACILITIES	DRINKING WATER	TOILET	DISABLED ACCESS	CAFE/KIOSK/DRINKS	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	CARAVAN SITES	ACCOMMODATION	SHOWERS	WALKING TRACK	SWIMMING	WATER SPORTS/CRAFTS	PLAYGROUND	BIRDWATCHING	FISHING	CYCLING/MOUNTAIN BIKING	LOOKOUT	ABORIGINAL ART SITES	HISTORICAL RUINS	ART SALES	
Berry Springs Nature Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●									●	
Butterfly Gorge Nature Park	●		●											●	●										
Casuarina Coastal Reserve	●				●	●								●	●	●									
Channel Point Coastal Reserve (permit required)	●		●	●	●	●				●				●	●	●									
Charles Darwin National Park	●			●	●	●	●							●	●						●				●
Djukbinj National Park	●													●	●								●		
Douglas River/Daly River Esplanade Conservation Area	●		●	●	●	●		●		●		●		●	●										
Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve	●					●	●							●	●										
Garig Gunak Barlu National Park	●	●	●	●	●	●				●		●		●	●	●									●
George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	●				●	●	●							●	●						●				●
Holmes Jungle Nature Park	●				●	●								●	●						●				
Howard Springs Hunting Reserve			●											●	●										
Howard Springs Nature Park	●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●										●
Kakadu National Park*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Litchfield National Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●									●
Manton Dam Recreation Area	●			●	●	●								●	●	●									
Mary River National Park	●	●	●	●	●	●				●		●		●	●	●									●
Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve														●	●										
Territory Wildlife Park	●				●	●	●	●	●					●	●										●
Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs Park	●			●	●	●				●				●	●										
Tree Point Conservation Area			●											●	●										
Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park	●		●	●	●	●				●				●	●								●		
Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre	●				●	●		●	●										●						●

\*Parks managed by the Australian Government

Canoeing, Nitmiluk Gorge, Nitmiluk National Park.

# Katherine and Barkly

Parks and reserves facilities and activities

	INFORMATION	RANGER STATION	4WD	BBQ FACILITIES	DRINKING WATER	TOILET	DISABLED ACCESS	CAFE/KIOSK/DRINKS	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	CARAVAN SITES	ACCOMMODATION	SHOWERS	WALKING TRACK	SWIMMING	WATER SPORTS/CRAFTS	PLAYGROUND	BIRDWATCHING	FISHING	CYCLING/MOUNTAIN BIKING	LOOKOUT	ABORIGINAL ART SITES	HISTORICAL RUINS	ART SALES	
Barranyi (North Island) National Park	●			●	●	●			●							●		●	●						
Caranbirini Conservation Reserve	●							●						●					●	●					
Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park	●				●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●						
Elsley National Park	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	●	●		●			●
Giwining/Flora River Nature Park	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●		●		●	●	●					
Judbarra/Gregory National Park	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●		●		●	●	●		●			
Keep River National Park	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●		●		●	●	●		●			
Limmen Bight Marine Park	●				●											●									
Limmen National Park	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●		●		●	●	●		●			
Nitmiluk National Park	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	●	●		●			●
Attack Creek Historical Reserve	●					●				●													●		
Barrow Creek Telegraph Station	●																						●		
Connells Lagoon Conservation Reserve	●		●															●							
Iytwelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●				●			●	●	●			●		
Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●				●							
Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve	●					●								●									●		

\*Parks managed by the Australian Government

Helicopter Tour, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

# Alice Springs and Uluru

Parks and reserves facilities and activities

	INFORMATION	RANGER STATION	4WD	BBQ FACILITIES	DRINKING WATER	TOILET	DISABLED ACCESS	CAFE/KIOSK/DRINKS	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	CARAVAN SITES	ACCOMMODATION	SHOWERS	WALKING TRACK	SWIMMING	WATER SPORTS/CRAFTS	PLAYGROUND	BIRDWATCHING	FISHING	CYCLING/MOUNTAIN BIKING	LOOKOUT	ABORIGINAL ART SITES	HISTORICAL RUINS	ART SALES	
Alice Springs Desert Park	●			●	●	●	●	●	●					●			●	●	●					●	
Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve	●	●			●	●	●	●	●					●				●	●	●	●	●	●		
Anna's Reservoir Historical Reserve	●		●							●				●				●	●	●			●		
Arltunga Historical Reserve	●	●	●		●	●			●					●				●	●	●			●		
Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve	●		●	●					●	●				●				●	●	●		●			
Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve	●					●			●					●				●	●	●					
Napwerte/Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve	●					●			●					●				●	●	●			●		
Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park	●					●			●					●				●	●	●			●		
Finke Gorge National Park	●	●	●		●	●			●	●	●			●				●	●	●		●			
Henbury Meteorites Conservation Reserve	●			●	●	●			●					●				●	●	●					
Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve	●		●						●					●				●	●	●			●		
Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserve	●		●						●					●				●	●	●					
N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●			●				●	●	●			●		
Owen Springs Reserve	●	●	●						●	●	●			●				●	●	●			●		
Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve	●		●	●	●	●			●					●				●	●	●			●		
Ruby Gap Nature Park	●		●						●	●	●			●				●	●	●			●		
Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve	●		●			●			●					●				●	●	●			●		
Trephina Gorge Nature Park	●	●	●		●	●			●	●	●			●				●	●	●			●		
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Watarrka National Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

\*Parks managed by the Australian Government



Wide Open Space Festival, Alice Springs region.



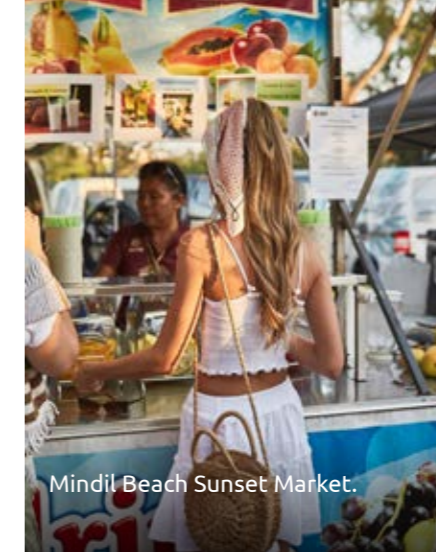
Tiwi Island Grand Final and Art Sale.



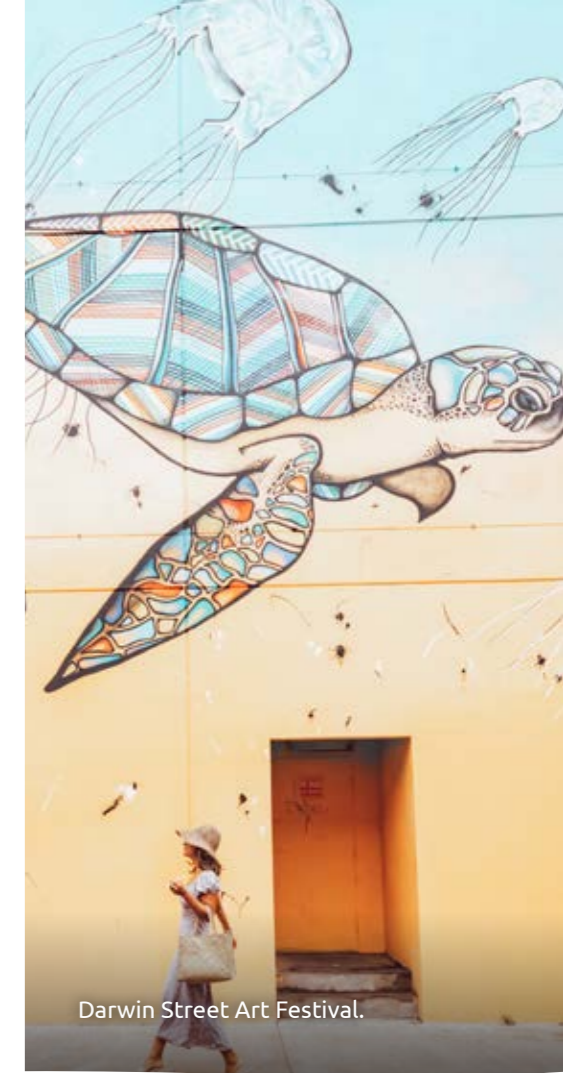
Darwin Festival.



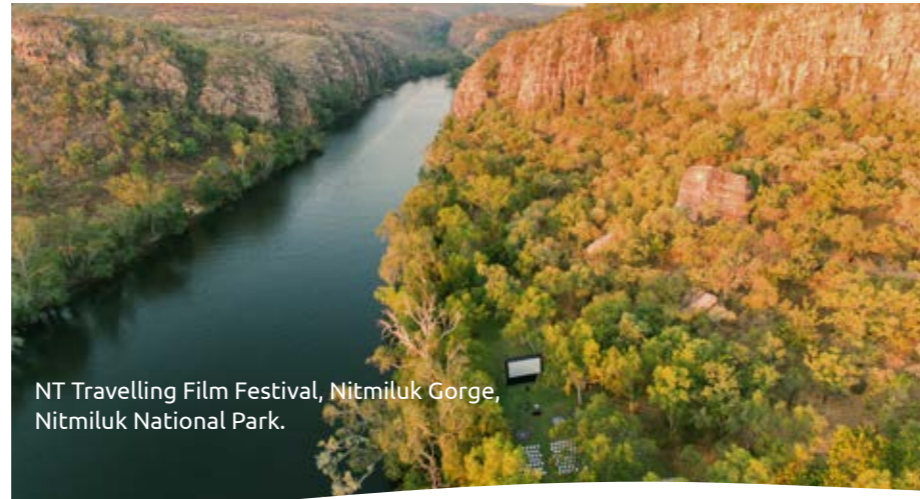
Henley-on-Todd Regatta, Alice Springs.



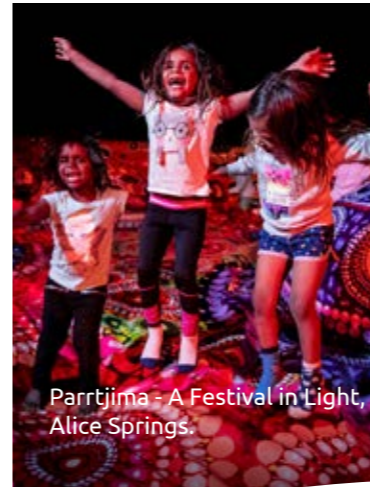
Mindil Beach Sunset Market.



Darwin Street Art Festival.



NT Travelling Film Festival, Nitmiluk Gorge, Nitmiluk National Park.



Parrtjima - A Festival in Light, Alice Springs.



Million Dollar Fish, Top End region.

## Festivals and events

### JANUARY

Million Dollar Fish ●●●●

### FEBRUARY

Million Dollar Fish ●●●●

Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin ●

### MARCH

Million Dollar Fish ●●●●

FabAlice Festival ●

### APRIL

Parrtjima a Festival in Light ●

Ladbrokes Alice Springs Cup Carnival ●

Mindil Beach Sunset Market: Opening night ●

Parramatta Eels v Brisbane Broncos (NRL) ●

Darwin Street Art Festival (April – September) ●

Wide Open Space ●

Thailand Grand Festival ●

### MAY

West Macs Monster Trail Running Festival ●

Gold Coast Suns v Western Bulldogs (AFL) ●

KarrimanjbeKKan An-me Kakadu Taste of Kakadu ●

BASSINTHEGRASS Music Festival ●

Kamfari ●

Junk Festival ●

Freds Pass Rural Show ●

Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival ●

Garrmalang Festival ●

Wintjiri Wiru ●

### JUNE

Tatts Fike Desert Race ●

Brunette Races ●

Alice Springs Beanie Festival ●

NT Writers Festival ●

Gold Coast Suns v Adelaide Crows (AFL) ●

Junk Festival ●

Barunga Festival ●

Greek Glenti ●

BetR Darwin Triple Crown ●

Kindness Festival ●

Malandarri Festival ●

Nitro Up North ●

Darwin Pride Festival ●

Rhythm of the 90s ●

Daminmin Festival ●

### JULY

Territory Day ●

Melbourne Demons v GWS Giants (AFL) ●

Alice Springs Show ●

Desert Harmony Festival ●

Desert Nationals ●

Australian Outback Marathon ●

Barkly Artists Music Festival (BAMFest) ●

Daminmin Festival ●

Darwin Fringe Festival ●

Great Northern Darwin Cup Carnival ●

Darwin Lions Beercan Regatta ●

Garma Festival ●

Royal Darwin Show ●

Hala Bira ●

### AUGUST

Great Northern Darwin Cup ●

Desert Harmony Festival ●

The Rotary Henley on Todd Regatta ●

Redback MTB Stage Race ●

Run Larapinta ●

Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards ●

Garma Festival ●

Darwin Festival ●

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair ●

National Indigenous Music Awards ●

National Indigenous Fashion Awards ●

Country to Couture ●

Chariots of Thunder ●

### SEPTEMBER

Red CentreNATS ●

Desert Mob ●

Desert Song Festival ●

Desert Festival ●

Bush Bands Bash ●

Katherine Bird Festival ●

Numburindi Festival ●

Darwin International Film Festival ●

Darwin Street Art Festival ●

Nitmiluk Festival ●

Kakadu Bird Week ●

### OCTOBER

Kakadu Bird Week ●

Alice Springs Desert Festival ●

Mindil Beach Sunset Market: Closing night ●

Million Dollar Fish Competition opens ●●●●

East Arnhem Live ●

### NOVEMBER

Million Dollar Fish ●●●●

Darwin International Laksa Festival ●

### DECEMBER

Million Dollar Fish ●●●●

Carols by Candlelight ●●

New Year's Eve at Darwin Waterfront ●

- Darwin region
- Kakadu
- Arnhem Land
- Katherine region
- Barkly region
- Alice Springs region
- Uluru
- Whole of Territory

For up-to-date information visit [northernterritory.com/events](http://northernterritory.com/events)

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Gunn Point Peninsula, Darwin.