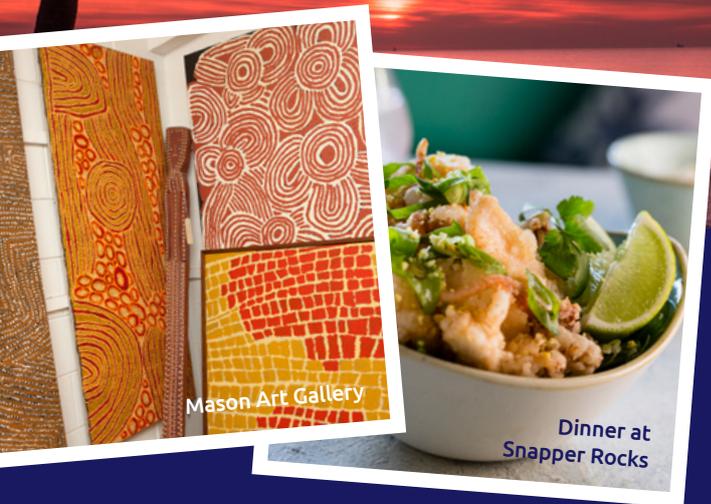




Darwin & surrounds

Seven-day itinerary



Mindil Beach



A week in Darwin allows you to awaken the senses and discover the incredible experiences the Top End has to offer. Swim under a waterfall in Litchfield National Park, immerse yourself in Aboriginal art and cultural experiences on the Tiwi Islands, explore the waterfront attractions and markets around Darwin, and revel in the Northern Territory's iconic sunsets.



TOP 10

1. Discover Darwin's street art scene and visit the **museums and art galleries** in the CBD
2. Visit the **George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens** to uncover the beauty of the tropics
3. Swim under one of the epic waterfalls at **Litchfield National Park**
4. Get amongst the interactive displays of the **Defence of Darwin Experience** and the **Royal Flying Doctor Service Tourist Facility**
5. Kick back with a sunset drink or dinner on a **Darwin Harbour cruise**
6. Take a day trip to the **Tiwi Islands** for an unforgettable arts and cultural experience
7. Splash around in the Wave Pool and Recreation Lagoon at the **Darwin Waterfront**
8. Smile at a saltwater crocodile in the Cage of Death at **Crococaurus Cove**
9. Browse through the local market stalls and try the mouth-watering plates on offer at the **Mindil Beach Sunset Market**
10. Head to the **Territory Wildlife Park** for an impressive bird of prey show and to learn more about the NT's native creatures



DAY 1

Start your day with at one of the local cafés in the city. Take the time to browse the boutiques for a piece that might catch your eye. Today, immerse yourself in the Top End's art scene.

Darwin City and the nearby shopping village in Parap are great places to view and invest in Aboriginal art pieces from around the Northern Territory. Next stop, head to the **Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory** to learn more about Aboriginal art, view the exhibit on Cyclone Tracey that left Darwin devastated in 1974 and see the 5-metre crocodile celebrity, Sweetheart. A taxidermied saltwater crocodile on permanent display in the museum.

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 different perspective. Wander through monsoon forests, coastal dunes, mangroves and open woodlands before relaxing with lunch at the onsite café.

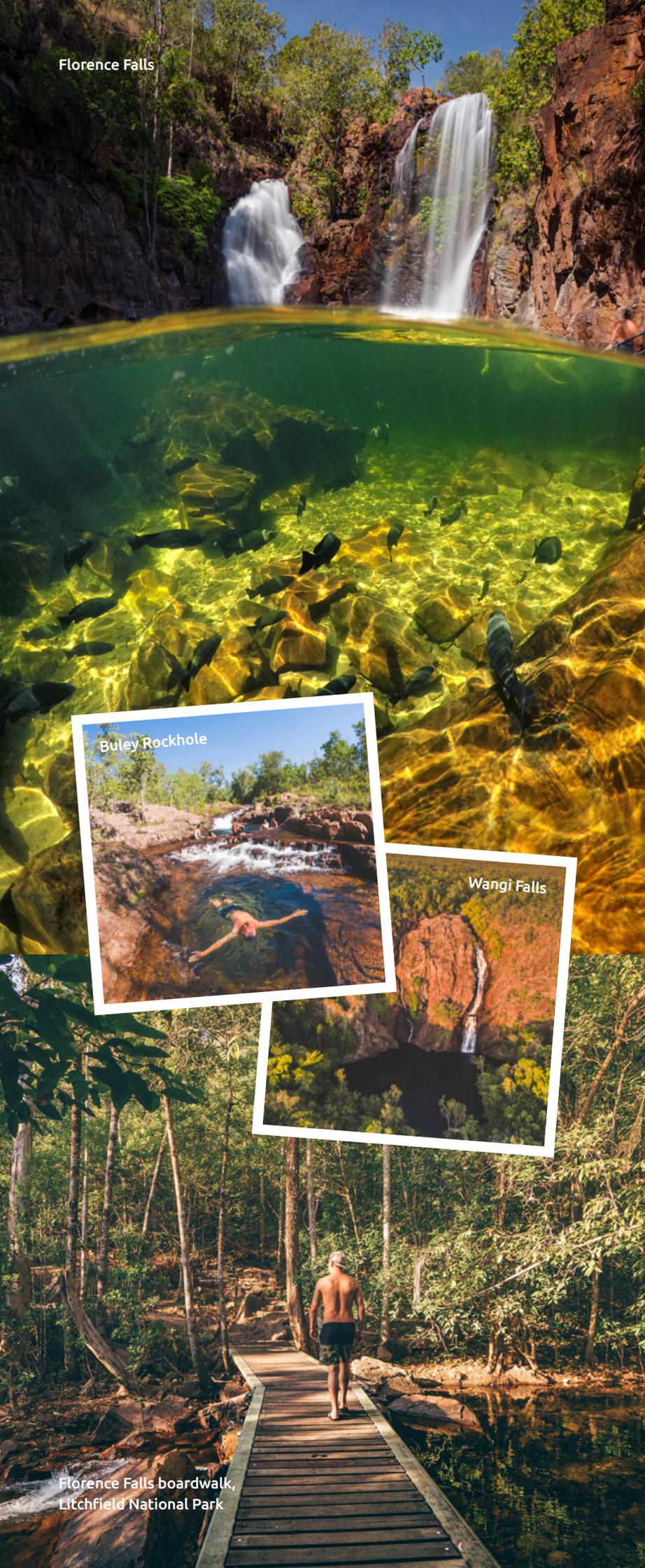
This afternoon, head over to **Stokes Hill Wharf** which is located within the Darwin Waterfront Precinct. This is a popular spot for fishing with the locals, and is dotted with popular restaurants, eateries and retail shops. It is also a great opportunity to check out the giant cruise ships docked at the terminal. Finish your day with local fish and chips and a cold drink while enjoying a beautiful **Top End sunset**.



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Florence Falls



Buley Rockhole

Wangi Falls

Florence Falls boardwalk,
Litchfield National Park

DAY 2

Today, pack your swimmers and set out on a day trip adventure to **Litchfield National Park**, only 1.5 hours' drive from Darwin. You'll see why locals consider this as 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 multi-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 km walk that takes you alongside the beautiful Walker Creek, or for the experienced trekker, there is an epic 39 km 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 that leave from **Darwin**.



Deckchair Cinema

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 to November). Make the most of the experience and relax under the stars enjoying their onsite bar and food stalls.

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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** is a great place to get your wartime history fix. Learn about the bombing of Darwin and the city's role in WWII making your way 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 virtual reality 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 Australians 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 and follow the road into Smith Street Mall for nearby lunch options.

Continue on to the **WWII Oil Storage Tunnels** at the Darwin Waterfront 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.

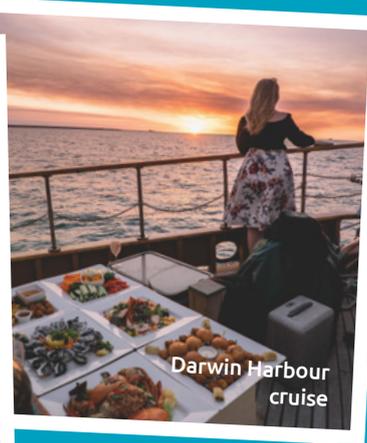
As the daylight hours start to wane, head to **Stokes Hill Wharf** to board a Darwin Harbour cruise on an historic pearling lugger or catamaran for a sunset drink or dinner.



Crococaurus Cove



Defence of Darwin museum



Darwin Harbour cruise

DAY 4

The Tiwi Islands are famous for Aboriginal arts and crafts, a passion for Australian Rules Football (AFL), and world-class sports fishing. From Darwin, the Tiwi Islands are accessible as part of an organised tour or fishing expedition. Take a 15-minute scenic flight in a light aircraft from Darwin or enjoy a 2.5 hour leisurely trip over the 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.



Tiwi Islands art

Head back to Darwin this afternoon and book ahead to secure a table at one of the city's culinary delights. Savour the flavours of the Territory with locally inspired dishes or cocktails to choose from at Hanuman, Snapper Rocks, PM Eat and Drink, Little Miss Korea and Char.



DAY 5

This morning, make your way to **Darwin Waterfront** for breakfast with a view. From high end restaurants to more casual café's and bars – there is something for everyone.

Make sure you pack your swimmers to go for a splash in the Wave Pool or Recreation Lagoon. Paddle, swim, bodysurf or play in the man-made pool with waves up to 1.7 metres.

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 a close look at full-grown saltwater crocodiles and learn about a variety of fish and reptile species at the aquarium. The twice daily crocodile and fish feeding show is 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 Market** is 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 Market is not scheduled for tonight, head to Cullen Bay Marina where you can watch the sunset with takeaway fish and chips or another choice from the marina.



Char Restaurant



Sunrise at Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve



Corroboree Billabong

DAY 6

If you're looking for the perfect way to relax, you can't go past Berry Springs Nature Park (usually open from May to November), located just 47 km 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.

Get active this afternoon and 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 Ooloo Sandbar. Wander through treetop aviaries, around a natural lagoon and make your way through the tunnel aquarium.

Drive back to Darwin in the afternoon to enjoy dinner at the Darwin Trailer Boat Club and toast to a day well spent in the Top End.



Please check road conditions and park openings before you travel.

Road report:
roadreport.nt.gov.au/home

NT Parks:
nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves

DAY 7

Cruise Top End wetlands teeming with wildlife and immerse yourself in wildlife on a **one-hour cruise** along 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 in their natural habitat.

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 at Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve. Here, boardwalks take you through different landscapes and observation platforms to view the large numbers of resident wading birds on the lily-pad filled waterway.

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, street-side dining, laneway cocktail bars and lively night clubs.

