

# Summer in the Top End

## Seven-day itinerary



Travel to the Top End and make the most of a week exploring Darwin, Litchfield and Kakadu over the NT's tropical summer – September to April. See thundering waterfalls, abundant wildlife and watch the skies come to life with epic lightning shows in the evening.



### TOP 5

1. Plunge into the water at the **Darwin Waterfront** and check out the local galleries around the CBD
2. Explore the ancient rock art of **Kakadu** and see an incredible tropical summer sunset
3. Visit **Litchfield** to cool off under a waterfall
4. Sign up and hook a barra in the **Million Dollar Fish competition**
5. Taste a famous laksa at one of Darwin's **suburban markets**



Above: Tolmer Falls, Litchfield National Park  
Left: Darwin Street Art Festival

#### DAY 1

Start your day at one of the many popular cafés in Darwin City. Explore the vibrant streets of the CBD and follow the trail of murals painted by renowned local and interstate artists as part of the **Darwin Street Art Festival** – some of which you can interact with by downloading the app.

The **art galleries around Darwin** are the perfect way to get acquainted with Aboriginal art and artists from the NT.

Enjoy a stroll around Darwin's respected galleries including **Mbantua Fine Art Gallery, Mason Gallery, and Northern Centre for Contemporary Art** located in Parap.

Enjoy an afternoon by the lagoon pool at **Mindil Beach Casino Resort**. Look out across the Arafura Sea while you sip on a cocktail from the pool. This is resort-style relaxation at its best.

#### DAY 2

Begin your morning with breakfast and a view at **Darwin Waterfront**. From high-end restaurants to more casual cafés and bars – there's something for everyone.


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.

Pack your bathers for a swim at the **Wave and Recreation Lagoons**. Paddle, swim or play in these manmade lagoons with waves up to 1.7 metres generated at regular intervals.


After lunch, make your way to **Crocosaur Cove** in the heart of Darwin on Mitchell Street. Here you have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the largest reptile on the planet.

Spend your evening on the **Charles Darwin Sunset Dinner Cruise**. Watch the sky light up in technicolour as you sip champagne and feast the night away on the water.



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### DAY 3

Rise early and depart Darwin along the Stuart Highway and Arnhem Highway for your 2-hour drive to the northern entry of **Kakadu National Park**.

A park pass is required to visit the World Heritage-listed national park. Your pass includes entry to the park, ranger-guided walks and talks, and interpretive materials. You can buy your **Kakadu park pass** online.

Head to the **Bowali Visitor Centre** to plan your time in Kakadu. Stop for refreshments at the café before you wander through the interpretive displays and gallery. Remember to ask staff for information about any road closures or conditions you should be aware of for your trip through Kakadu.

Check into your accommodation at **Cooinda Lodge** before preparing for an afternoon walk. Make your way to Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) to stroll through the naturally sheltered path filled with ancient rock art upon the walls. This is a must stop for anyone that wants to see well-preserved Aboriginal rock art in Australia. Finish the day with an incredible sunset at the top of **Nawurlandja lookout**.

### DAY 4

Start the day with sunrise on a **Yellow Water cruise** or witness the impressive waterfalls in all their fury on a **scenic flight** that departs from Cooinda Lodge or the township of Jabiru.

If you're departing Kakadu from Cooinda Lodge, fill up for the three-hour drive ahead and venture south along the Kakadu Highway connecting to the Stuart Highway to make your way around to **Litchfield National Park**.

Check into your accommodation before cooling off in the soothing waters of **Florence Falls** and **Buley Rockhole** this afternoon.

### DAY 5

This morning you can chose to bushwalk a rainforest trail, frog kick under a cascading waterfall and marvel at the massive termite mounds that stand up to six metres in height. Choose how to spend the morning in this **Litchfield Destination Guide**.

On your way back to Darwin, stop in at **Territory Wildlife Park** where you can view the renowned 'birds of prey' show or hand-feed the whip rays in the Ooloo Sandbar. Wander through treetop aviaries, around a natural lagoon and through the aquarium to see animals, including the resident saltwater crocodile.

### DAY 6

Bag a barra on your second last day in the NT. Just ask the local fishing enthusiasts – nothing compares to hooking a metre-plus barramundi in the Top End. Anglers are abuzz with the **Million Dollar Fish** competition. Book a Top End **fishing charter** – it's a chance to hook your fortune and enjoy a day on the water at the same time. At the very least, you may catch dinner.

### DAY 7

Enjoy some of the best coffee in the Territory with breakfast at Laneway Specialty Coffee in Parap. Make sure to check out the galleries and local boutiques while you're there and if it's a Saturday then you're lucky enough to experience one of **Darwin's local markets**.

Cap off your week in Darwin at one of the bars and pubs on the **city's main strip** – Mitchell Street. Choose from traditional pubs with beer gardens, popular live music venues, terrace bars with street-side dining, casual backpacker joints, swanky cocktail bars and night clubs.

Yellow Water cruise  
Kakadu National Park

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Darwin Waterfront