***Tourism Australia acknowledges the Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Owners of the land, sea and waters of the Australian continent, and recognises their custodianship of culture and Country for over 65,000 years.***

**Darwin/Gulumerrdgen and Surrounds**

***Discover Aboriginal Experiences is a collective of inspiring and transformational experiences***

***guided by Aboriginal people who share their country and bring the landscape to***

***life through their stories. Further information and trade resources available at:***

[***www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)

***Luxury Lodges of Australia is an extensive collection of independent lodges and camps offering unforgettable experiences in Australia’s most inspiring and extraordinary locations. These lodges are exclusive by virtue of their remoteness, their special location and intimate size.***

[***www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au***](http://www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au)

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*As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, some experiences may not be operating for certain periods or running to altered schedules. Information is correct at time publication, however, please use this itinerary as a guide and check each businesses’ website for the most up-to-date information.*

**DAY 1 Darwin/Gulumerrdgen**

*As the Northern Territory’s thriving capital, Darwin attracts travellers from all around the globe looking to experience its outdoor tropical lifestyle. With waterfront dining, crocodile adventures, rich historical experiences, and access to the Tiwi Islands all within a few minutes of the city centre, there’s enough to do to fill a weekend or a week.*

Enjoy a [**Darwin Heritage Walk**](https://walkdarwin.com.au/darwin-heritage-walk/)with [**Walk Darwin**](http://www.walkdarwin.com.au/).

As you walk the paths of pioneers, guides share their passion for the town they call home as they tell of its history through the World War II bombings and Cyclone Tracy, to current day. Discover many of the remaining buildings such as the old Court House and Police Station, Browns Mart and the Old Palmerston Town Hall ruins, all of which have been painstakingly reconstructed. View Government House, Parliament House and the Northern Territory Supreme Court on a journey through the streets of this modern tropical city.

At the conclusion of your walking tour, head to [**Rendezvous Café**](https://www.rendezvouscafedarwin.com.au/) for lunch before your afternoon helicopter tour.

Take a scenic [**Litchfield Waterfalls**](https://www.nautilusaviation.com.au/experience/litchfields-waterfalls-60-minute-scenic-flight/)helicopter flight with [**Nautilus Aviation**](http://www.nautilusaviation.com.au/).

Departing from Darwin, enjoy a special 60-minute return scenic flight taking in the beauty of Litchfield’s treasures: Wangi Falls, Tolmer Falls, Florence Falls and The Lost City. Take in the impressive sights of the Magnetic Termite Mounds and Darwin’s main water supply, the Darwin River Dam, holding half the volume of Sydney Harbour, before returning to Darwin.

This evening enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants along the **Darwin Waterfront** precinct, including [**Wharf One**](https://wharfone.com.au/), [**Hot Tamale**](https://hottamale.net.au/) and [**Chow**](https://www.chowdarwin.com.au/).

**Overnight: Darwin Waterfront Luxury Suites**

**DAY 2**

Join a [**SeaLink NT - Tiwi Islands**](https://www.sealinknt.com.au/tiwi-islands/tiwi-by-design)tour and discover what makes these islands so special.

Take the 2.5-hour SeaLink ferry trip to Bathurst Island and meet a local Tiwi guide for a journey through the progressive community of Wurrumiyanga. Enjoy a traditional Welcome to Country ceremony before a walking tour which includes the historic mission precinct. Visit the Patakijiyali Culture Museum to view its fascinating displays of traditional art and depictions of the Tiwi Creation story and learn the history of the Mission days. Participate in a screen-printing workshop, then browse the carvings, paintings and fabric with the opportunity to purchase Tiwi arts and crafts.

*SeaLink NT is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)***.***

Tonight, don’t miss a dining experience at [**Hanuman**](https://www.hanuman.com.au/darwin-1) – one of Darwin’s iconic restaurants which has been operating since 1992.

**Overnight: Darwin Waterfront Luxury Suites**

**DAY 3**

Make an early start and head out to the **Corroboree Billabong** for a thrilling [**45-minute Airboat Safari**](https://www.wildlands.com.au/tour/45-minute-airboat-safari/) with [**Wildlands**](https://www.wildlands.com.au/).

This is a truly unique experience which takes you into privately owned areas that no one else can access. Glide across seemingly endless floodplains of the Mary River wetlands system and discover a vast array of native wildlife and amazing flora including saltwater crocodiles, a multitude of bird species, and vast stands of lotus flowers.

Return to Darwin and relax over lunch at [**Yots Greek Taverna**](https://www.yots.com.au/) located on the waterfront boardwalk at **Cullen Bay Marina**.

After lunch, spend some time at the [**Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory**](http://www.magnt.net.au/) Browse the wonderful collection of Aboriginal art and learn about the region's culture and history – including a realistic exhibition on the devastating effects of Cyclone Tracy in 1974.

This evening, head on down to the [**Mindil Beach Sunset Market**](https://mindil.com.au/)**\*.**

The Mindil Beach Sunset Market is the heart of Darwin's cultural melting pot and truly epitomises the word 'multicultural'.

The Market sees the congregation of over 200 unique stalls, ranging from food stalls offering incredible local and international cuisine to an array of arts, crafts and services stalls. The markets support and provide opportunity for artists from all genres of creative and performing arts to showcase their talent. This combination of amazing food, arts and culture, set to the backdrop of the spectacular sunset, creates an electric atmosphere.

*\*Operates Thu and Sun, end April to end October.*

**Overnight: Darwin Waterfront Luxury Suites**

**SUGGESTED TRIP EXTENSIONS**

**EXTENSION 1 Lords Safaris, Davidson’s Arnhemland Safaris and Bamurru Plains – 6 days**

**DAY 4**

This [**6-day Ultimate Luxury Safari**](https://www.lords-safaris.com/tours/sample-itineraries/ultimate-luxury-safari-adventure/) starts by making its way toward UNESCO World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park. The first stop enroute is **Fogg Dam Reserve**. Fogg Dam has year-round water coverage, which assures its position as an important feeding and roosting site for a wide variety of water birds, as well as other animals.

A short detour off the highway is the beautiful **Leaning Tree Lagoon**, a billabong often covered in water lilies. Leave the main road to enter into Kakadu via the Old Darwin Road. The last stop for today is a pristine waterfall, **Maguk (Barramundi Gorge)**. A one-kilometre walk through monsoon rainforest leads to the base of a beautiful plunge pool. Maguk Gorge is a natural wonder of crystal-clear water surrounded by towering rock walls, the ideal place to enjoy a refreshing swim.

**Overnight Lords Private Tented Camp**

**DAY 5**

Today, visit Arnhem Land, home of Aboriginal peoples for tens of thousands of years. Access to this area is restricted to a select group of tour operators, and access to this area is only by invitation of the Traditional Owners, who may deny access at any time.

Departing the northern region of Kakadu National Park, cross the infamous Cahill’s Crossing on the East Alligator River and enter Arnhem Land.

A 15-kilometre scenic drive to the Gunbalanya Indigenous Community provides some of the best driving views in the Top End, taking in floodplains, billabongs, and the Arnhem Land escarpment.

Visit the Injalak Arts and Crafts Centre and experience the traditional culture of the Kunwinjku people where you can get to know the artist and see first-hand how artworks are created.

An Aboriginal guide will show you rock art on Injalak Hill (Long Tom Dreaming or Kurrkabal). The view from the top of the hill across the floodplains and around the Arnhem land escarpment is breath taking. Have lunch in the shade of one the many overhanging ledges.

Next, head on to Davidson’s Arnhemland Safaris situated in the northwest corner of Arnhem Land and adjacent to Kakadu National Park and the Cobourg Peninsula.

Access to the Davidson’s safari lodge is by 4WD vehicle or flight only. The heart of the lodge is a tastefully furnished communal space with dining area, lounge, bar, library, internet area and a large outdoor deck for alfresco dining, all overlooking the sandstone-paved pool.

**Overnight Davidson’s Arnhemland Safaris Lodge**

**DAY 6**

Today is spent exploring the incredible unique environment around Davidson’s Arnhemland Safaris. This location at Mt Borradaile is a registered Aboriginal sacred site in an exclusively leased 700-square-kilometre area nestled against the Arnhem Land escarpment. Its rugged ranges, fringed by idyllic billabongs, floodplains, paper bark swamps and monsoonal rain forests, form an amazingly beautiful wilderness.

Mt Borradaile is still owned and managed by its Traditional Custodians, the Amurdak people, whose inhabitation of the area dates back for 50,000 years. The story of their ancestry is evident in the many tools, ceremonial grounds, and rock art paintings visible – and still being uncovered – today. Valleys, overhangs, and caves offer magnificent galleries of rock art as well as occupation and burial sites.

While at Davidson’s, enjoy a range of activities and attractions, such as fishing, viewing Aboriginal art, and a billabong cruise.

**Overnight Davidson’s Arnhemland Safaris Lodge**

**DAY 7**

Depart Davidson's and journey to **Bamurru Plains** located on the magnificent **Mary River floodplains**. This safari-style camp boasts comfortable free-standing rooms that are spacious and expose guests to the sounds of the floodplains, a dining area with commanding views across the vast wetlands, a 10-metre wet edge pool, and a library.

The focus of the stay at Bamurru is the environment for wildlife and bird life for which it is home. Each individual safari bungalow is designed to blend with the surroundings and immerse guests in the sights and sounds of the bush, whether it is the haunting call of a Whistling kite, the raucous cacophony from the Blue-winged kookaburras as dawn breaks or the sound of a full-grown buffalo splashing its way through the floodplains just a short distance from your bed. The morning chorus of tens of thousands of Magpie geese, after which the camp is named, is an experience in itself.

The Mary River catchments are home to some 236 species of birds, many of which are found at Bamurru Plains. The significance of this particular property comes in the variety of habitat: black soil floodplains, paper bark swamps, savannah woodland, river mangroves and coastal beaches support an extraordinary diversity of bird life.

End the day with a dramatic sunset over the floodplains while enjoying a glass of wine.

**Overnight Bamurru Plains**

**DAY 8**

A morning airboat adventure\* on the floodplains is an exhilarating and perfect start to the day, and the only way to truly experience the amazing environment around Bamurru Plains.

While at the camp, enjoy a variety of activities. The floodplains of the Mary River region form one of the most significant ecosystems in Australia. Dominated by the climatic extremes of the tropical monsoon, the wetlands and savannah woodlands that fringe the coastal regions between Darwin and Kakadu National Park harbour an extraordinary diversity of flora and fauna. This place is home to thousands of magpie geese, plumed whistling ducks, egrets, ibis, and a host of other birds, not to mention wild buffalo and wallabies.

\*Substitute this activity on city module if choosing this extension.

**Overnight Bamurru Plains**

**DAY 9**

Continue to enjoy the sights and experiences of Bamurru Plains this morning, and then after lunch make the return journey to Darwin.

*Lords Safaris is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)*and*[***Australian Wildlife Journeys***](https://australianwildlifejourneys.com/wildlife-operator/lords-kakadu-and-arnhem-land-safaris)*.*

*Davidson’s Arnhemland Safaris**is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)*.*

*Bamurru Plains is a member of* [***Luxury Lodges of Australia***](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bamurru/)*.*

**EXTENSION 2 Nitmiluk Experience – 3 nights**

**DAY 4**

Make your way to **Katherine** and onto your accommodation at [**Cicada Lodge**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/accommodation/cicada-lodge).

*A trip to the Northern Territory is not complete without visiting the spectacular Nitmiluk Gorge. Open all year round, it features some of the most stunning gorge scenery in the Northern Territory, with raging waterfalls, myriad wildlife, and breathtaking views of the Jawoyn country. Nitmiluk Gorge winds along 12km of sheer rock extending more than 70m high. Consisting of 13 separate gorges, Nitmiluk Gorge is a maze of waterways sculpted from the sandstone over countless millennia by the Katherine River.*

[**Nitmiluk Tours**](http://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/) is a successful 100% wholly owned and operated Indigenous tourism operation within Nitmiluk National Park and is the exclusive provider for touring the breathtaking Nitmiluk Gorge, located approximately 320km south of Darwin. From campgrounds to tented accommodation, self-contained chalets and the boutique Cicada Lodge, Nitmiluk Tours has an accommodation option for everyone.

*Nitmiluk Tours is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)*.*

This afternoon depart on the [**Nabilil Dreaming Sunset Dinner Tour**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/gorge-experiences/gorge-tours/nabilil-dreaming-sunset-dinner-tour).

Discover the stories and ways of the Jawoyn people against the magnificent backdrop of the Nitmiluk Gorge, changing colour with the setting sun, and concluding with the shimmering of the stars and the moon.

The tour includes a three-course candlelit dinner, featuring fresh, local Australian produce cooked by one of chefs on board, accompanied by a complimentary glass of sparkling wine.

**Overnight Cicada Lodge**

**DAY 5**

Today enjoy a private helicopter[**Adventure Swim Tour**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/gorge-experiences/helicopter-flights/adventure-swim-tour-private).

Fly over all 13 Gorges then continue via the Katherine River into the rugged rock country of Nitmiluk National Park. Discover one of the most remote and beautiful

waterfall swim sites in Australia. Enjoy a swim at this pristine wilderness rock pool, which is yours exclusively. A picnic hamper is available at additional cost.

This afternoon take a 1 hour tour of[**Cutta Cutta Caves**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/cultural-experiences/cultural-tours/cutta-cutta-caves-nature-park)**.**

Formed millions of years ago the Cutta Cutta Caves system is home to a variety of native wildlife and is rich in Indigenous culture and modern European history. Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park is located 27km south of Katherine and is easily accessible from the Stuart Highway. The park covers 1499 hectares of limestone landscape, and is home to five species of bats, including the rare Ghost and Horseshoe bats. About 170 species of birds have been recorded within the park, including the Hooded Parrot and the endangered Gouldian Finch.

For this evening’s dinner, enjoy native Australian foods and fresh local produce at [**Cicada Lodge Restaurant**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/dining/cicada-lodge-restaurant).

**Overnight Cicada Lodge**

**DAY 6**

Journey into Katherine for the [**Top Didj Aboriginal Cultural Experience**](http://www.topdidj.com/).

The Top Didj Cultural Experience is a **2-to-2.5-hour activity** where visitors can interact with Top End Aboriginal artist Manuel Pamkal and ask questions about Aboriginal culture whilst being educated on the significance of his painting style, weapons used and how he lived off the land. The highlight of the Cultural Experience and what sets it apart from other cultural experiences, is the painting style which is demonstrated by an Aboriginal artist.

*Top Didj is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)*.*

This afternoon, hit the water on a [**Malappar Traveller**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/gorge-experiences/canoeing-trips/malappar-traveller) canoe trip.

Explore the gorge system at a relaxed pace, with ample time to admire the scenery and wildlife. Enjoy a picnic on the shaded riverbanks or cool off with a swim in the alluring waters of the second or third gorge. On this self-guided canoe adventure, you will no doubt be drawn into the lush hanging gardens. This is a fertile section of the gorge with an almost rainforest-like atmosphere. Enjoy the shade and cooling atmosphere from the green foliage.

Enjoy a casual dinner at the [**Jatti Poolside Restaurant**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/dining/jatti-poolside-restaurant)or[**Nitmiluk Café**](https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/dining/nitmiluk-cafe).

**Overnight Cicada Lodge**

**EXTENSION 3 Venture North Safaris Arnhem Land and Cobourg Peninsula – 4 days**

**DAY 4**

Make your own way from Darwin to Jabiru.

Follow the Stuart and Arnhem highways until you reach the **Adelaide River**, then pop into the **Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre**, where fun interactive displays provide an introduction to the landscapes you’re about to see.

Arrive Jabiruand check into the [**Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel**](https://kakadutourism.com/accommodation/mercure-crocodile-hotel).

*Nestled near the spectacular Arnhem Land Escarpment in the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, Jabiru was established as a mining town in the 1970s. It is the only Australian town set inside a national park, and is now the main service area for Kakadu, offering a range of accommodation and facilities.*

Enjoy dinner at the **Escarpment Restaurant**, located within the Mercure.

**Overnight: Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel**

**DAY 5**

You will be collected from your Jabiru hotel for the [**Venture North 4-day Arnhem Land and Cobourg Peninsula tour**](https://venturenorth.com.au/tours/4-day-arnhem-land-and-cobourg-peninsula-safari/#1)**.** Travel to the northern region of Kakadu National Park via Cahill’s Crossing on the East Alligator River and enter Arnhem Land. A 15 km scenic drive to Gunbalanya Aboriginal community provides some of the best driving views in the Top End with floodplains covered in bird life and water lilies.

Visit the Injalak Arts and Craft Centre and watch local artists in action before visiting Injalak Hill art sites where you will see some of the best Aboriginal rock art in Australia.

Journey on to the **Cobourg Peninsula** and arrive at Venture North's camp where you will be greeted by the resident camp caretakers and served nibbles on the cliff top, relax as the sunsets over Port Essington.

**Overnight Cobourg Coastal Camp**

**DAY 6**

Awake to the sound of birds and enjoy a special ‘Cobourg-style’ cooked breakfast.

Spend the morning exploring the Northern Territory’s largest Marine Park by boat. Cobourg is abundant in marine life including six species of marine turtle, dolphins, sharks, crocodiles, stingrays, mud crabs and plenty of fish.

Visit the Victoria Settlement ruins, which represents the third failed attempt at settlement in Northern Australia and eventually abandoned in 1849. Enjoy a leisurely journey back to camp.

This afternoon is free to explore the nearby beaches and creek systems, try your luck at fishing or simply enjoy the solitude while reading a book from a hammock overlooking the ocean.

Tonight, enjoy a freshly caught seafood dinner.

**Overnight Cobourg Coastal Camp**

**DAY 7**

Today, explore the eastern side of the park by 4WD.

Head out via the northern beaches, commonly used as turtle nesting areas and covered in a wide range of shells.

After lunch hunt for mud crabs using traditional Aboriginal methods.

Later in the afternoon visit the park’s Cultural and Information Centre before heading back towards camp.

**Overnight Cobourg Coastal Camp**

**DAY 8**

Depart Cobourg early and enjoy the bush scenery of Arnhem Land as you travel back to Kakadu National Park. After numerous stops along the way, enjoy lunch next to the mighty East Alligator River.

After lunch visit **Ubirr Rock** and view some of Kakadu’s best Aboriginal rock art. A short walk to the top of Ubirr offers spectacular views of the surrounding wetlands and stone country.

Venture North will drop you at your hotel.

Depart Ubirr and continue back to Jabiru. If you have not self-driven to Jabiru, Venture North can transfer you to Darwin via the Mamukala Wetlands.

*Venture North is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)*.*

**EXTENSION 4 Lirrwi Tourism – 4 nights**

**DAY 4**

Make your way to Darwin Airport for an early morning flight to Gove.

On arrival, you will be met by [**Lirrwi Tourism**](https://www.lirrwitourism.com.au/) and commence your [**5 day/4 night Crossing Country tour**](https://www.lirrwitourism.com.au/crossing-country) staying on a remote Yolŋu homeland with the Traditional Owners of the region.

The Crossing Country Tour has all the makings of a genuine adventure in culture, visiting one of a selection of remote Yolŋu homelands. The tour is suitable for all ages, and families with children are welcome to share in this life changing experience. Not only will you participate in a variety of cultural programs and activities, but you will cross a diversity of incredible landscapes during the tour. This tour will give you an understanding of Yolŋu culture, and the Yolŋu peoples’ connection to land and sea.

**DAYS 5-8**

Become part of a small Yolŋu community and be made to feel like part of the family, take part in daily activities and make lasting friendships. Learn about Yolŋu kinship, traditional lore and language, both spoken and sign. Throughout your visit you will participate in any number of activities from weaving to traditional spear fishing, gathering of bush foods and medicine, to dance (Bunggul), storytelling or learning how the Yidaki (didgeridoo) is made and played.

The tour provides an opportunity for Yolŋu on remote homelands to share their culture with visitors and provides an economic base for them to be able to remain on Country and maintain their culture. Tourism of this kind, which is developed by Yolŋu for Yolŋu allows for multiple generations of family members to participate and share their culture with non-Aboriginal people.

*Lirrwi Tourism is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)*.*

**DAY 9**

At the conclusion of your tour, you will be transferred to Gove airport for your departure flight.