

# Aboriginal Tourism Product Awareness Program (ATPAP) Famil

June 2025



*Different in every sense*



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## Important information

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the below important information prior to your arrival into the Northern Territory (NT).

### Accommodation

It is routine for hotels in Australia to ask for a credit card imprint on check-in as a security deposit. Please check as times differ between accommodation operators but generally check-in time is 14:00 on the day of arrival and check-out time is 10:00 on the day of departure. Guests may be permitted to check in earlier or check out later subject to room availability at operator's discretion.

## Water

Please ensure you drink approximately 1 litre of water per person per hour for every hour you are in the sun. At certain times of the year, the Northern Territory can get very hot especially during the summer months with the Red Centre reaching dry temperatures well over 40 degrees Celsius and the Top End being extremely humid. Heat stroke and general dehydration is very common but can also be easily avoided. It is recommended that if you are travelling in a remote area, to be well equipped and ensuring you are carrying plenty of spare water.

## Communications and Mobile Coverage

Large sections of the Northern Territory are without mobile phone coverage. You will have full coverage in most areas in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, Jabiru and Yulara (Ayers Rock).

If travelling for extended periods in remote areas, hiring a satellite phone is worthwhile. For a normal holiday this is usually not necessary.

If calling overseas from Australia, you will need to dial 0011 then the country code. In many countries 00 is sufficient and this has caused confusion in the past.

In an emergency, please dial 000 or 112 from your mobile phone. Please note that this number will connect through to the operator even when you do not have telephone or internet coverage.

## Clothing

Please ensure you bring loose comfortable clothing and wear sturdy walking shoes on any active tours. It is recommended you bring a small backpack to carry a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and at least two water bottles.

## Climate

The Top End has a tropical climate, with two distinct seasons: the Wet Season and the Dry Season. From May to October, it's the Dry Season, with average daytime temperatures around 33°C. We recommend checking a weather app closer to departure to see what temperatures you can expect during your visit.

## Packing List

- Summer clothes (T-shirts, shorts, dresses etc.)
- A hat or cap
- Slightly warmer clothes for the evenings/early mornings
- Active wear / comfortable clothes for hiking and active tours
- Closed walking shoes / trainers
- Sandals / light shoes
- Light towel
- Swimmers
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses

# Acknowledgement

Tourism and Events NT respectfully acknowledges the First Nations people of this country and recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters, and communities. We pay our respects to the Aboriginal cultures, and their leaders past, present and emerging.

## First Nations Culture in the Northern Territory

Australia's Northern Territory offers a rich and genuine experience and a journey to the heart and soul of Australia.

Aboriginal Australians are the oldest living culture in the world which includes more than 250 nations, each with their own languages that have survived more than 65,000-years that includes a rich history of life, love, adversity, and countless challenges. They are bonded through a shared connection to their ancestral lands and communities that crisscross across the wide Australian landscape. Each clan has its own cultural practices, protocols, language, law, ceremonial songs, and dances.

Aboriginal knowledge, law and spirituality are framed by the philosophy that everyone and everything – the land, people, past, present and the future – are interconnected, creating a complex system of cultural and familial responsibilities, obligations, and kinship.

The Northern Territory is a place of rich Aboriginal traditions and cultures – where old stories continue to be re-told as new stories emerge.

From 65,000-year-old rock art to the fresh sounds of rapper, Baker Boy, and the exciting new art practices that have emerged in recent years – Aboriginal people and culture is the backbone of the Northern Territory. It will always be here.

## Respecting culture, laws, and protocol

- Don't be shy, say hello.
- Be curious, ask and listen to language and culture; it shows appreciation and willingness to learn.
- Seek permission from the Aboriginal Traditional Owners before going anywhere 'off track'.
- Don't be shy to ask where you should not go.
- Dress respectfully and appropriately.
- Ask for the consent of the person/people before taking their photo.

## Whose country are you on?

First Nations refer to their homelands as 'Country' including the trees, the animals, waterways and seas to which they are connected. A person's Country is their identity and includes complex laws that govern all things from your birth to your death; your extended family and cultural/familial relationships, your place in the universe, your songs and ceremonial responsibilities, your Dreaming tracks and stories, and language.

## Whose Country am I on?

The Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) provides a map of Indigenous Australian language groups and is a good starting point for identifying the Traditional Owners of a particular Country. It's important to note the map provides general boundaries of larger groupings of people and is a guide only; further research into specific Traditional Owner groups is recommended in addition to the AIATSIS map. Some land council websites contain additional information about Traditional Owner groups and Language groups:

- Tiwi Land Council: [tiwilandcouncil.com](http://tiwilandcouncil.com)
- Central Land Council: [clc.org.au/aboriginal-languages-of-central-australia](http://clc.org.au/aboriginal-languages-of-central-australia)

The map is available at: [aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia](http://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia)

## Referring to Aboriginal Peoples in writing

- Aboriginal peoples
- Aboriginal man/woman/child
- Aboriginal Elder
- First Nations
- First Australians

# Trip itinerary

## DAY 1: Arrival in Darwin



### Welcome to Australia's Northern Territory!

Depending on your arrival time – typically either during the night or about midday – you may already have some time to explore Darwin. Please note that this itinerary reflects the ATPAP famil itinerary, which has been tailor-made for this group.

Accommodation and experiences can easily be substituted to suit different preferences or budgets.

Getting from the airport is straightforward, with taxis and Uber readily available. Alternatively, you can pre-arrange an airport transfer, with drivers meeting guests at the baggage carousel.

- **Darwin Limousines**  
W: [www.darwinlimousines.com](http://www.darwinlimousines.com)
- **Grand Touring**  
W: <https://grandtouringnt.com.au/tourism/>

#### Accommodation:

Darwin CBD is approximately a 15 to 20-minute drive from the airport. We stayed at the Hilton Darwin, which is well located near the Waterfront Precinct, the Esplanade and the CBD. The CBD itself is compact, and most key attractions can be reached on foot within 10 - 20 minutes.

- **Hilton Darwin**  
W: [Hilton Darwin](http://Hilton Darwin)

#### 5.00 pm **Sea Darwin Sea Tiwi – Sunset Fish ‘n’ Chips cruise**

Sea Darwin Sea Tiwi is an Aboriginal-owned company offering a relaxed Fish & Chips Sunset Cruise aboard a smaller, fast boat. The experience is particularly **well suited to families with children**, as the cruise runs for approximately 1.5 hours.

Guests set off on an engaging cruise across Darwin Harbour, hosted by a knowledgeable local crew who bring the region to life with real-time stories, local insights and signature Top End charm.

As the sun begins to set, guests are treated to a generous serving of freshly caught local fish and crispy chips, served onboard for a true taste of Darwin.

A complimentary drink - choose from bubbly, wine, beer or cider - is included, along with a keepsake GoVino glass or stubby cooler to take home.

This experience is guided by the tide, with conditions determining whether guests enjoy a unique sandbar stroll or a relaxed dinner on deck while cruising the harbour.

- **Sea Darwin Sea Tiwi**  
W: [www.seadarwin.com](http://www.seadarwin.com)



barramundi, crocodile and kangaroo, followed by the opportunity to cool off with a swim at Wangi Falls and Florence Falls (conditions permitting).

Led by a local Aboriginal guide, the tour provides meaningful insight into the cultural and environmental significance of the Top End, offering an enriching experience that truly brings Country to life.

Please remember to reconfirm your pick-up time for the Litchfield Day Tour prior to departure.

### **Northern Territory Indigenous Tours**

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

#### **4.30 pm Return to the hotel**

You have some time to relax after a big day out in Litchfield National Park.

#### **Dinner Gin tasting and dinner at Charlie's of Darwin**

Take a short stroll from the Hilton Darwin to Charlie's of Darwin. Along the way, you can explore some of Darwin's laneways, known for their striking street art and colourful murals.

Charlie's of Darwin is also home to Darwin Distilling Co., making it the perfect place to start with a gin tasting featuring three of their flagship gins. The distillery uses uniquely Territorian botanicals, giving each gin a distinctly Northern Territory flavour.

A hidden gem tucked away in the city's laneways, Charlie's of Darwin offers a unique dining and distilling experience. Home to Darwin's first gin distillery, the venue showcases native botanicals and local flavours, with a rooftop bar and intimate indoor dining spaces. The modern Australian menu highlights fresh, seasonal produce, and whether you're stopping by for a handcrafted gin, creative cocktail or a full dining experience, Charlie's delivers a relaxed yet stylish Top End vibe.

#### **Charlie's of Darwin**

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

### **Day 3: Darwin to Kakadu National Park**



**Please note:** For our group adventure, we chartered a vehicle with a knowledgeable driver/guide from **Offroad Dreaming**, a well-established, family-run Top End business. Offroad Dreaming can also be contacted for private charter options for your clients.

Alternatively, clients may choose to hire a vehicle and recreate a similar itinerary, noting that some minor adjustments would be required.

#### **7.00 am Breakfast**

After a last night at the Hilton Darwin, enjoy breakfast at your own leisure.

#### **8.00 am Pick up by Offroad Dreaming for departure to Kakadu National Park**

We will leave Darwin today and head towards the wilderness of Kakadu National Park.

## Offroad Dreaming

W: [www.offroaddreaming.com.au](http://www.offroaddreaming.com.au)

10.00 am

### Corroboree Billabong Cruise

The first stop en-route to Kakadu is **Corroboree Billabong**.

The **Corroboree Billabong Wetland Cruise** offers a relaxed and scenic 1.5-hour journey through one of the Top End's most spectacular wetlands. Located just **90 minutes from Darwin**, the cruise is ideal for spotting saltwater crocodiles, a diverse range of birdlife and vibrant lotus lilies in their natural habitat. Led by knowledgeable local guides, it's a peaceful and informative way to experience the rich wildlife and beauty of the Mary River wetlands.

### Corroboree Billabong Wetland Cruises

W: [www.wetlandcruises.com.au](http://www.wetlandcruises.com.au)

11.30 am

### Departure from Corroboree Billabong Cruise

After leaving Corroboree Billabong, it's only around a 30-minute drive to Bark Hut, a great roadside stop on the way to Kakadu National Park.

12.00 pm

### Lunch at Bark Hut

**Bark Hut Inn** is a classic Top End stopover located on the Arnhem Highway, roughly halfway between Darwin and Kakadu. Known for its rustic charm and outback hospitality, it offers meals, drinks, fuel and accommodation. It's a great spot to take a break, enjoy a bite to eat, and soak up the Territory atmosphere, with a pub full of character, local wildlife and plenty of Territory stories.

After lunch, continue the drive to **Jabiru**, the main town in Kakadu, and check into your hotel. The drive from Bark Hut takes around 1.5 hours.

2.30 pm

### Arrival and check-in at Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

Once you've checked in, you'll have some time to freshen up before heading out to Ubirr Rock.

Please wear trainers or other sturdy walking shoes for the climb. While the walk isn't long or difficult, sandals or flip-flops are not suitable.

4.00 pm

### Ubirr Rock visit

It's about a 40-minute drive to **Ubirr Rock**, one of Kakadu's most iconic sites.

Along the way, stop at the famous **Cahill Crossing**, which offers dramatic views of the tidal East Alligator River and is one of the best places to safely spot saltwater crocodiles feeding with the changing tides. Cahill Crossing also serves as the gateway into Arnhem Land.

At **Ubirr Rock**, explore ancient Aboriginal rock art galleries that date back thousands of years, depicting traditional stories and local wildlife. A short walk takes you to a stunning lookout with panoramic views over the **Nadab floodplain**, especially breathtaking at sunset.

It's a fantastic spot for a **sunset picnic**, but please note that **alcohol is not permitted**



**Alternatively:** Day trips to Injalak and Injalak Hill can also be booked with Top End Day Tours, the only company offering trips from Darwin to West Arnhem Land: [Top End Day Tours Arnhem Land Day Tours from Darwin, Jabiru |Aboriginal Art |Culture](#)

**2.30 pm**      **Arrival and check-in at Cooinda Lodge**

After a full day in West Arnhem Land, return to Jabiru and meet your Outback Dreaming guide, who will already have your luggage loaded. From Jabiru, it's about a 40-minute drive south to Cooinda Lodge, your accommodation for the night.

Once checked in, you'll have time to shower and freshen up before heading out on the Yellow Water sunset cruise.

With its oasis-style atmosphere, Cooinda Lodge has Kakadu's most extensive range of accommodation, from luxury villas to quality lodge rooms. The resort offers two shaded swimming pools, alfresco and indoor dining, fuel station, general store, the Warradjan Cultural Centre and extensive touring options including world-famous Yellow Water Cruises.

**4.00 pm**      **Meet for transfer to Yellow Water sunset cruise**

It's time for the Yellow Water sunset cruise - an absolute must-do in Kakadu National Park. The transfer meeting point is at the fuel station opposite reception. Glide through Kakadu's most famous wetlands and watch the billabong come alive at dusk. Located at the end of Jim Jim Creek, Yellow Water is part of the South Alligator River system, which is unique in being fully encompassed within a UNESCO World Heritage-listed National Park.

**7.00 pm**      **Dinner at Cooinda Lodge – Mimi's Restaurant**

After the sunset cruise, head straight to dinner at Mimi's Restaurant at Cooinda Lodge.

**Overnight**      **Cooinda Lodge**

**W:** [www.kakadutourism.com](http://www.kakadutourism.com)

**Day 5: Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris**

**6.30 am**      **Breakfast**

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at Cooinda Lodge before the day begins.

**7.30 am**      **Departure from Cooinda Lodge and drive to Burrungkuy (Nourlangie)**

**8.45 am**      **Burrungkuy Rock Art**

The first stop today is **Burrungkuy (Nourlangie)**, where you'll explore remarkable Aboriginal rock art with your guide. Time permitting, follow the walking track around the site to see additional ancient rock paintings and take in the dramatic landscapes, which reveal the cultural and environmental significance of this special place.

**10.30 am**      **Check-in for Kakadu Air scenic flight to Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris**

Upon arrival at **Jabiru Aerodrome**, say farewell to your **Offroad Dreaming** guide, who

will return to Darwin with your luggage and ensure it's delivered to the **Darwin Airport Resort**, where you'll spend the final night of the trip.

Around **11:00 am**, get ready for a scenic charter flight into Arnhem Land. Flying in small, fixed-wing aircraft, enjoy breathtaking aerial views of the vast and spectacular Kakadu National Park — an unforgettable way to experience the Top End's unique landscapes.

#### **Kakadu Air Services**

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

**12.00 pm**

#### **Arrival at Davidson's Arnhemland Safari Lodge**

After landing, you'll be picked up and driven to the lodge. **Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris** offers an exclusive and immersive experience in a remote part of Arnhem Land, operating with special permission from the traditional owners, the **Amurdak people**.

Set on a sacred Aboriginal site at **Mount Borradaile**, the eco-lodge is surrounded by stunning floodplains, escarpments, and ancient rock art galleries. Knowledgeable guides lead small groups through cultural sites, wetlands, and stone country, sharing the rich natural beauty and deep Aboriginal heritage of the area. With comfortable, eco-conscious accommodation and inclusive tours, it's a truly unique Top End experience focused on **culture, nature, and conservation**.

**1.00 pm**

#### **Lunch & Downtime**

Enjoy a delicious lunch at the lodge and take some time to relax. You may also take a swim in the lodge's pool to refresh before the afternoon activities.

**3.00 pm**

#### **Rainbow Serpent Tour**

Your first guided tour at Davidson's is a short but enriching walk to the **Rainbow Serpent rock art site**, one of the most culturally significant in the region. Along the way, your guide will introduce you to ancient Aboriginal rock art traditions, explain the unique geology of the area, and share insights into local bush tucker and traditional medicinal plants. This is a perfect introduction to the stories, culture, and landscape that define this extraordinary part of Arnhem Land.

After the tour, return to the lodge to freshen up before dinner.

**7.00 pm**

#### **Dinner**

End your first day at Mount Borradaile with a delicious set dinner at the lodge.

**Overnight**

#### **Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris Eco Lodge**

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

#### **Please note:**

*This day has been tailored to the group's schedule. Usually, Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris requires a minimum two-night stay, with all meals and activities included — longer stays are recommended. Given the remote location, this makes perfect sense, and many guests wish they could stay longer. The lodge can be reached by 4WD access between May and October or by light aircraft. The lodge is closed November–March.*

If renting a vehicle, it's possible to leave it in Jabiru and book return charter flights with Kakadu Air from Jabiru to Davidson's. In this case, pack a light day pack, as the aircraft cannot accommodate large luggage.

## Day 6: Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris to Darwin

**7.00 am Breakfast**  
A continental breakfast will be available from 7.00 am onwards, a cooked breakfast will be served from 7.30 am onwards.

**8.30 am Morning Tour**  
The morning activity will be confirmed during the **Rainbow Serpent tour** the day before, taking into account the group's interests and abilities. This flexible approach ensures the experience is tailored to make the most of your time at **Mt Borradaile**.

Depending on the return time to the lodge, there may still be an opportunity for a final swim or a moment to relax and soak in the surroundings.

**1.00 pm Lunch**  
Enjoy one last meal at the lodge before leaving this magical area.

**2.00 pm Kakadu Air flight to Darwin**  
It's time to say farewell to Davidson's and the spectacular Mount Borradaile region. **Kakadu Air will fly the group back to Darwin Airport**, followed by a short transfer to the Mercure Darwin Airport Resort. Airport transfers can also be arranged through the resort.

Upon check-in, you'll be reunited with your luggage and can settle into your room. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at your own pace, whether it's unwinding in your room or taking a dip in the expansive resort pool.

**5.00 pm Departure to Mindil Beach Sunset Market**  
If your visit falls on a **Thursday or Sunday**, head to the famous **Mindil Beach Sunset Market** to enjoy a final Darwin sunset and browse the market stalls. Make sure to watch the sunset from the beach — one of Darwin's iconic experiences. VIP tickets are also available for the market, offering **reserved seating**, drinks, and "Mindil Money" to try a few dishes from the stalls, depending on the package you choose.

**Mindil Beach Sunset Market**  
W: [Sunset Lounge](#)

**Overnight: Mercure Darwin Airport Resort**  
W: [Mercure Darwin Airport Resort Hotel | Lagoon Pool | ALL - ALL](#)

## Day 7: Departure



**Breakfast:** Enjoy a final breakfast at the Darwin Airport Resort before beginning your journey home.

Walk or take the resort shuttle to the airport, depending on your flight time. If your flight departs later in the day or at night, you can request a late check-out or book a day pass at the resort.

## Thank you for visiting Australia's Northern Territory!

For more information on the NT please, visit our website [northernterritory.com](http://northernterritory.com)

### Tourism and Events NT's Online Image Gallery

If you would like to order or download images from our online Image Gallery please go to:

[mediagallery.tourismandeventsnt.com.au](http://mediagallery.tourismandeventsnt.com.au)

Click "register now" and complete the online registration\*

Once processed you will receive a username and password via email

\*Registration typically takes around one business day to be processed