

Regional Tours

TOUR CODE: TE08



ARNHEM LAND, KAKADU & TOP END

8 Days > Darwin • Katherine Gorge • Kakadu • Aboriginal Art • Small Group Experiences

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCES

Explore the best of the Top End with this eight day trip. Starting in the tropical capital of Darwin, travel in our comfortable 4WD vehicles and discover beautiful Litchfield National Park, see plunging gorges, swim in secluded waterholes and view ancient Aboriginal rock art. To complete the experience of a lifetime, be sure to upgrade to the two night Peppers Seven Spirit Bay option.

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Darwin City Sights Tour
- Katherine Gorge Dinner Cruise
- Kakadu National Park
- Yellow Waters Billabong Sunset Cruise
- Ubirr World Heritage cultural site to view ancient Aboriginal rock art
- Window on the Wetlands
- Litchfield National Park
- Wangi Falls

OUTSTANDING PLACES TO STAY

- Stay three nights in the tropical capital of Darwin and discover its history
- One night in Katherine and Coinda
- Stay overnight in the Aboriginal Reserve of Arnhem Land at Mt Borradaile Safari Camp
- Stay at the unique crocodile-shaped Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn in Jabiru
- Indulge in an optional Seven Spirit Bay escape for the ultimate in luxury

FINEST DINING – INCLUDES 12 MEALS

- 7 Breakfasts (B), 1 Lunch (L) and 4 Dinners (D)
- Katherine Gorge Dinner Cruise

ITINERARY

Itinerary effective 6 May 2008.

Day 1 > Tuesday > Darwin City Sights

On arrival in Darwin you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy an afternoon tour of Darwin. See historical sites including Stokes Hill wharf precinct, the Botanic Gardens, East Point reserve with relics of WWII and Cullen Bay. Tonight meet your fellow travellers over Welcome Drinks, then explore the culinary delights of Darwin at your leisure.

Stay: Darwin, Saville Pandanas.

Day 2 > Wednesday > Adelaide River, Leliyn (Edith Falls), Katherine Gorge Dinner Cruise

Depart Darwin and travel south to Adelaide River. Visit the beautiful garden War Cemetery and Adelaide River Inn, home to Charlie the Buffalo from 'Crocodile Dundee' fame. Have a swim at Leliyn, a delightful natural pool surrounded by pandanus and paperbark trees. Continue along the Stuart Highway to Katherine and enter Nitmiluk National Park for a guided dinner cruise on Katherine Gorge.

Stay: Katherine, Knotts Crossing Resort. (BD)

Day 3 > Thursday > Kakadu National Park, Gunlom Falls, Yellow Waters Cruise

Travel north to the mining town of Pine Creek and enter Kakadu National Park. Tour deep into Kakadu to Gunlom Falls where you can swim in the large waterhole at the base of the falls. Gunlom was one of the sites for the filming of 'Crocodile Dundee'. Visit Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre followed by a sunset cruise on Yellow Water billabong.

Stay: Gagudju Lodge Cooida. (BD)

Day 4 > Friday > Ubirr, Arnhem Land, Sunset Cruise

Enjoy an early morning walk along the Cooida waterfront. Visit Bowali Visitors Centre and learn about the park, its flora, fauna and cultural significance. Visit Ubirr World Heritage cultural site, see ancient rock art galleries and take in views over the wetlands. With special permission from traditional owners, ford the East Alligator River, travel into the Aboriginal reserve of Arnhem Land, to our overnight camp. Join a special billabong sunset cruise, spot crocodiles as they hunt for food in the twilight, see birdlife and absorb the serenity of the wetlands.

Stay: Mt Borradaile Safari Camp (facilities are basic in this magnificent remote area). (BD)

Day 5 > Saturday > Mt Borradaile, Aboriginal Art Sites, Wildlife

For those who wish, there will be an opportunity to try their hand at barramundi fishing this morning with a guide. Tour the near region by 4WD, cruise the waterways in search of wildlife and birdlife and trek to Mt Borradaile. Here you become a student of nature and Aboriginal culture as you admire ancient art galleries with rock art believed to date back 50,000 years. These examples provide an insight of the spiritual beliefs of possibly the world's oldest surviving culture. This will be sure to remain a most memorable experience. Mt Borradaile rock art and ancient habitation sites have received much media interest and has been subject of many worldwide televised documentaries. Later in the afternoon re-enter Kakadu National Park.

Stay: Jabiru, Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn. (BLD)

Peppers Seven Spirit Bay Option

Enjoy two luxurious nights in paradise with this upgrade option. Peppers Seven Spirit Bay is a luxury eco-escape located in the pristine Cobourg Marine Park at the Top End of Australia's Northern Territory. A beautiful wilderness habitat, Peppers Seven Spirit Bay offers beautiful lodge-style accommodation nestled among the trees. Be whisked away after we visit Mt Borradaile and board a chartered flight to Seven Spirit Bay for the next two nights. Minimum two passengers required.

Additional: Twin Share: £970; Single: £1250.

Day 6 > Sunday > Termite Mounds, Window on the Wetlands, Darwin

Depart Kakadu National Park, see giant termite mounds and visit Fogg Dam, renowned for its plentiful birdlife. Today we also enjoy panoramic views over the wetlands from Window on the Wetlands visitors centre. Reach Darwin mid-afternoon. During May-Oct. there is an opportunity to visit the famed Mindil Beach sunset markets.

Two Night Stay: Darwin, Saville Pandanas. (B)

Day 7 > Monday > Darwin, Litchfield National Park

Travel to Litchfield National Park. See the magnetic termite mounds, swim at Wangi Falls and view Tolmer Falls. From a high vantage point see Florence Falls. Return to Darwin in the afternoon. (B)

Day 8 > Tuesday > Darwin

After a leisurely breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Combine your Top End holiday with an exploration of the rugged Red Centre. See pages 42–43 for our Uluru & Central Australia tour (Tour Code CA08).

DEPARTURE DATES

8 Days Top End

■ **2008** May > 6, 20, 27; Jun > 10, 17, 24; Jul > 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Aug > 12, 19, 26; Sept > 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct > 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov > 4, 11

■ **2009** May > 5, 19, 26; Jun > 9, 16, 23, 30; Jul > 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug > 11, 18, 25; Sept > 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct > 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov > 3, 10

Most dates are guaranteed – ask when booking.

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