



THE TOP END

Very Good News:

**NORTHERN TERRITORY
BORDERS ARE OPENING
ON
09 OCTOBER 2020**

With the Northern Territory borders opening up very soon, now is a great opportunity to plan your future Australian Outback adventure.

There are many ways you can see this region - whether it be on a private tour with expert guides, a small group adventure trip or even a self drive adventure - we are happy to plan this with you.

It important to note - the Northern Territory has very distinct
Wet and Dry Seasons.

The **Dry Season**, which is the most popular time of year to travel, is between

the months of April and October. These months are warm during the day and cooler at nights, but offer dry and sunny weather. This is the most comfortable time of year to visit the Top End.

The **Wet Season** is between the months of November to March. These month can have heavy rainfall which can bring flooding, as well as cause restrictions in seeing some of the sights. It can also be quite hot and humid. On a positive note, the rainfall also brings with it the flow of waterfalls and different wildlife to what you would see during the dry season.

Whatever time of year you choose - we are here to help you work it out and make your journey as comfortable as possible.



DARWIN

Tropical capital city of the north

With its diverse mixture of more than 60 nationalities Darwin is renowned for its tropical climate and colourful characters. Mindil Beach Sunset Market is the heart of Darwin's cultural melting pot and truly epitomises the word

'multicultural'. There is plenty to see and do around town or simply relax, recharge the batteries and enjoy the holiday atmosphere. There is a huge focus on outdoor activities – eating, drinking, shopping or even sailing. It is the gateway to the Top End from where you can visit the Tiwi Islands, Kakadu National Park, Arnhem Land, Katherine (Nitmiluk) Gorge, Mataranka Springs, Litchfield National Park to name just a few.



BAMURRU PLAINS

Be captivated by the untamed wonder of the Top End

Bamurru Plains is a safari lodge with exclusive access to 300 km² of floodplains and savanna woodland on the Mary River, on the edge of Kakadu National Park. A profusion of bird and wildlife are at the doorstep of this unique bush experience that exudes 'Wild Bush Luxury' and brings a touch of style to the discovery of a remote and beautiful wilderness. Watch as hundreds of birds take flight from around the infinity-edge pool, scan the shallows for big saltwater crocodiles as you skim across floodplains by airboat or slowly cruise the

Sampan River watching for silver flashes of fish breaking the surface. On guided walks and game drives search for brumbies, buffalo, dingos and wallabies or pause to consider an intriguing reptile or the adaptations of a particular insect. With only 10 safari-style bungalows, the focus of your stay at Bamurru Plains is on the environment and the creatures for whom it is home. Each suite overlooks the floodplain and with mesh walls on three sides you can hear, see and almost touch the wildlife and wilderness around you, waking to the call of the magpie geese as the orange light of dawn spreads across the floodplains.



TIWI ISLANDS

Visit the remote Tiwi Islands

Situated approximately 80 kms to the north of Darwin, Melville Island and neighbouring Bathurst Island are collectively known as the 'Tiwi Islands'; the

home of the Tiwi people. Known for its tropical climate, its small and friendly indigenous population and its exclusive fishing, there is very little infrastructure on the Tiwi Islands, and they are not open to the public for tourism, except on organised trips. Options to get there include a 2 to 6 day fishing trip or a scheduled day trip to the islands from Darwin.

The day trip includes a short scenic ferry ride and on arrival you will experience life in a modern day Aboriginal community. Known as the 'Island of Smiles', the welcoming locals take you on an unforgettable journey through their rich history and culture by showcasing traditional bush tucker, bush medicine, local history and world class Aboriginal Art.

Tiwi Indigenous Australians are renowned for proudly maintaining their traditional culture. Most speak Tiwi as their first language and English as their second. Plus, they've also uniquely blended Tiwi culture with Christianity brought to them by missionaries as seen through their Tiwi-style Catholic Church. As specialists in wood carvings, here you can see carvings representing various birds from Tiwi mythology holding meanings significant to their culture. Indigenous Australian art is an important part of the Tiwi island culture and economy, with part of their artistic talent vividly demonstrated through their distinct batik, carvings and the unique Pukumani burial poles.



KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Australia's first National Park to be World Heritage listed

Kakadu is unique for its wildlife, majestic scenery and cultural significance to the Aboriginal people. More than 75 species of reptiles and a third of all Australian bird species are found in Kakadu, with the bias toward the large and exotic. Yellow Water Wetlands, is a branch of the South Alligator River that becomes an open-air zoo as the waters recede during the dry season, packed with frogs, birds, snakes and the park's biggest wildlife drawcard - crocodiles.

Flat-bottomed boats make regular cruises on the lagoon and it is practically guaranteed that during the course of the two-hour cruise, you will come eyeball-to-eyeball with white egrets, brolgas, jabirus, sea eagles, jacanas, pelicans, snake birds, goannas and crocodiles. More than 5,000 rock-art sites have been identified in Kakadu, some of them more than 30,000 years old. The paintings at Ubirr, probably the most spectacular site, show the gradual evolution of Aboriginal rock art, from simple stick figures to complex X-ray paintings and mythological figures that indicate a rich culture of legends and dreams. Other Kakadu highlights are the creeks and waterfalls of the escarpment. The deep swimming holes at the foot of these waterfalls are always a popular spot in the

dusty dry season months. Two of the most visited are Twin Falls and Jim Jim Falls, where the water tumbles more than 200 metres in a sheer drop.



KATHERINE

Gateway to the North, South, East and West!

Katherine is located about 320km south of Darwin and is full of exciting and beautiful things to see and experience. It is at a crossroad on your way up north to Darwin, west to Kununarra (WA), down south to Alice Springs or east to Mt Isa (Qld). Visit the famous Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge) where you are able to take a cruise up the gorge, canoe at your leisure or even take one of the many walking tracks. There is also the opportunity to visit Edith Falls for a swim. Cutta Cutta Caves are located only 27km south of Katherine.

The caves are a series of limestone caverns dating back 500 million years featuring sparkling columns, pillars and flowstones of calcite crystal. Another highlight is Katherine Hot Springs which comprises of 6 pools often used by locals to swim in - one being long like a lap pool. South of Katherine you will find the township of Mataranka, otherwise called the Capital of the Never Never, is known for its Thermal Springs which look like a tropical oasis in the

middle of the outback. (pictured)



ARNHEM LAND

An untouched region of Australia

Arnhem Land is a vast unspoilt wilderness area of more than 97,000 square kilometres, in the northeast corner of Australia's Northern Territory, defined by rocky escarpments, gorges, rivers and waterfalls. Access to this region can only be obtained with pre-arranged permits and it is highly recommended to travel on a prebooked tour with an experienced guide for your safety (crocodiles!) and to maximise your time there. Rich in Aboriginal culture, Arnhem Land offers unique indigenous experiences, rock art and some of the best fishing in the world. Wildlife is abundant throughout East and West Arnhem Land. There are lots of saltwater crocodiles and the area provides an important conservation habitat for dugongs, nesting turtles and migratory birds. The traditional owners of Arnhem Land are the Yolngu people, who have occupied the region for at least 60,000 years. This is the land where Australia's most

famous musical instrument, the didgeridoo, originated. It's now also home to wilderness and fishing lodges, and safari tours.

AABE is ready to help you!

We are experts in Northern Territory holidays. Whether you want to stay at a unique lodge, take part in a private outback safari, stay in luxury tents or at a crocodile shaped hotel, we are happy to help you plan your journey!

Ask us for suggestions as these regions are filling fast!

Call us now to plan and discuss your future adventure!

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