

# Northern Territory





Devils Marbles, Central Australia

# *Discover a diverse wonderland*

The Northern Territory is blessed with diverse and contrasting environments, guaranteed to provide the experience of a lifetime.



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Come and discover the real Outback of Australia – The Northern Territory. With exciting and spectacular landscapes and varied attractions, the Territory is guaranteed to provide the most intrepid traveller with the experience of a lifetime.

From the tropics of the Top End to the deserts of Central Australia, the amazing Territory has it all – ancient rock formations, palm fringed waterholes, sweeping desert plains, rugged ranges, stunning gorges and incredible wildlife.

Learn about Aboriginal culture, rich with traditions over 40,000 years old, venture into ancient Arnhem Land or be guided by traditional land owners in Uluru.

Explore national parks and lush wetlands, cruise through Katherine Gorge or visit the stunning Twin Falls in Kakadu.

Experience the heart of Central Australia with boundless desert landscapes, have a yarn to colourful characters in a quirky Australian pub or take a camel ride in the arid Outback.

It's all out there waiting in the Northern Territory.

Travelpoint Holidays is a leader in Australian holidays, offering a fantastic range of holiday options throughout Australia, including accommodation, tours, car hire, cruising and much more. Ask your travel agent for a copy of one of our many brochures.

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Uluru, Central Australia

# Colourful, natural & untouched

## Central Australia

The Red Centre is the heart of Australia and is in stark contrast to the Top End of the Northern Territory. Discover Central Australia's arid beauty, its endless plains and monuments of nature.

Nothing will prepare you for your first view of Uluru (Ayers Rock). This impressive sandstone monolith stands 348 metres above the desert floor and is a sacred, spiritual place for the local Anangu people and visitors alike, one of the great wonders of the world. Also situated in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), 36 weathered rocky domes dating back hundreds of millions of years.

Central Australia is also home to King Canyon, situated on the western edge of the George Gill Ranges in Watarrka National Park. The Canyon's sheer red rock face soars 100 metres above a hidden oasis of palms, ferns and waterholes, protecting it from the harsh surrounding desert.

The most famous outback town in Australia, Alice Springs, is in the heart of Central Australia. Known as much for the vibrant personalities as for the natural beauty that surrounds it, 'The Alice' provides a true outback experience with the conveniences of modern facilities.



# Calendar Of Events

## Top End

The Top End is the most northern part of the Northern Territory. It is lush, green and tropical – a contrast to the harsh arid beauty of the Red Centre.

Darwin is the tropical capital city of the Northern Territory. With a relaxed outdoor lifestyle and warm weather year round, Darwin is the perfect base from which to explore the natural attractions of Kakadu, Arnhem Land, Litchfield National Park as well as the Tiwi Islands.

The third largest town in the Territory, Katherine is often referred to as the place 'where the Outback meets the Tropics'. The Katherine region is a vast network of rivers, escarpments and gorges with Katherine Gorge in Nitmiluk National Park a must see highlight. The town's historical sites are complemented by the numerous adventure activities offered at Katherine Gorge.

World Heritage Listed Kakadu National Park is famous for its rugged escarpments, lush wetlands, plunging gorges and cascading waterfalls. With its accessible Aboriginal rock art sites and abundance of wildlife, it is a cultural and nature lover's paradise.

Arnhem Land covers 91,000 square kilometres and is one of the last great unspoilt areas of the world. With rugged coastlines, soaring escarpments and lush rainforests, this region is a photographer's dream. Steeped in cultural significance for the Aboriginal people, this wholly Aboriginal-owned expanse is a place where time stands still and ancient culture lives on. Go in search of the most authentic Aboriginal art in the Territory, fish for marlin or barramundi in some of the most isolated fishing spots or test your driving skills on the network of 4WD tracks. Arnhem Land is an experience that will never be forgotten.



## APRIL

Alice Springs Cup  
Carnival 11th Apr-4th May

Barra Nationals Fishing  
Tournament, Daly River TBC

## MAY

Katherine Country Music Muster 1st-3rd

NT Barramundi Classic,  
Katherine 11th-16th

Darwin Pride Festival TBC

## JUNE

Finke Desert Race, Alice Springs 6th-8th

V8 Supercars Championship  
Series, Darwin 19th-21st

Darwin Fringe Festival TBC

## JULY

Alice Springs Show 3rd-4th

Darwin Cup Carnival 4th Jul-3rd Aug

Imparja Camel Cup, Alice Springs 11th

Darwin Beer Can Regatta 12th

Royal Darwin Show 23rd-25th

## AUGUST

Darwin Festival TBC

Henley on Todd Regatta, Alice Springs 22nd

## SEPTEMBER

Alice Desert Festival 11th-21st

TBC – Dates for this event were yet to be confirmed at the time of printing.



Sandy Creek Falls, Litchfield National Park, Top End

# *A feast of rewarding experiences*

## **Nature**

The Northern Territory is one of nature's purest places, a true nature lover's paradise. The harsh dry lands of Central Australia are home to amazing rock formations including Uluru, Kata Tjuta, Devils Marbles and Kings Canyon. Experience the vibrant colour changes as the sun rises and sets over the amazing landscapes. The sweeping desert plains lead to dunes and Spinifex grasslands with rare wildlife including the thorny devil. The Top End has a tropical environment with lush rainforests, stunning waterfalls, deep gorges, towering rocky escarpments, wetlands and river systems teeming with extensive bird life, crocodiles, fish and flora.

## **Culture**

The Northern Territory is enriched with many different Aboriginal cultures, with hundreds of languages, customs and laws, woven together to tell a story that is over 50,000 years old. Take a bush-tucker tour, listen to story telling, enjoy a traditional dance performance or shop for local arts and crafts. Creation stories, traditional laws and customs are an important way of life for the Aboriginal people and have been passed down for tens of thousands of years through inscriptions and ancient Aboriginal art. The most famous examples of accessible rock art can be found at Nourlangie Rock and Ubirr Rock in Kakadu National Park. A visit to Kakadu's





Bowali Cultural Centre, the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre near Cooina or the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre provides visitors with an appreciation of the traditional owners' culture and heritage. Discover Arnhem Land, an Aboriginal-owned expanse, where the traditional culture remains intact today.

### Adventure

See the iconic attractions of Uluru and Kata Tjuta on a Harley motorcycle, explore the landscapes of Central Australia on a camel ride, float through the desert sky in a hot air balloon or enjoy a scenic helicopter flight. In the Top End, trek to the top of rocky escarpments or experience world class fishing in Darwin Harbour, Arnhem Land and the rivers and estuaries throughout the region. Cruise extensive wetlands and gorges and spot abundant wildlife including crocodiles or canoe through Katherine Gorge. Experience the adventure by joining a guided tour, an off-road safari, an exclusive camp, or travel at your own pace on a self drive adventure.

### The Outback

The Northern Territory's Outback contains an assortment of quirky pubs, colourful characters, spectacular landscapes and endless yarns. Listen to tales from locals in an outback pub, or get your hands dirty on a cattle station. Journey on the Ghan passenger train and watch the desert landscape change from red to gold and see steep escarpments, savannah woodlands and lush tropical rainforests of the far north. The Outback's wide open spaces and blue skies are full of surprises.

### Shopping

From modern to cultural, you'll find a variety of shopping choices to suit your tastes. Nightcliff Markets in Darwin are perfect for a lazy Sunday, while Mindil Beach Sunset Markets on Thursday and Sunday evenings from May to October, are Darwin's most popular markets with local produce and authentic international fare. Darwin's largest shopping complex, Casuarina Square, boasts a variety of shops, cafés and cinemas. Todd Mall is the pedestrian precinct in the heart of Alice Springs, featuring shops, restaurants, Sunday markets and entertainment. Gallery Gondwana in Alice Springs is one of Australia's leading Indigenous art galleries, and in the Red Centre, Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre incorporates Maruka Arts & Crafts, an Aboriginal owned arts co-operative.

### Wining and Dining

With a multicultural history, Darwin offers a diverse range of cuisines showcasing the Top End's local produce. Here are some of our favourites:

- Mindil Beach Sunset Markets between May and October for a multicultural feast.
- Cullen Bay Marina for alfresco harbourside dining.
- Char Restaurant in Darwin for excellent steaks and a gorgeous setting.
- Sunset dinner cruise on Darwin Harbour.

Central Australia is a great place to sample authentic bush tucker and modern Australian dishes. Our top suggestions are:

- Taste kangaroo tail, crocodile, or even a witchetty grub on a bush tucker tour.
- Experience a magical dinner in the middle of the desert as the sun sets over Uluru and Kata Tjuta at the Sounds of Silence Dinner.
- The Sounds of Firelight dinner at Kings Canyon is another unique experience not to be missed.

## Must See & Do

- See Uluru at sunrise or sunset
- Visit the spiritual Kata Tjuta (Olgas)
- Take a walk around the rim of Kings Canyon
- Step back in time at The Royal Flying Doctor Base, School of the Air and the Historic Telegraph Station in Alice Springs
- Take a hot air balloon ride from Alice Springs
- Experience a famous Top End sunset on a Darwin Harbour cruise
- Explore the Darwin Wharf precinct for an insight into the colourful history of Darwin
- Fish for Barramundi, Marlin and Sailfish
- Visit the Territory Wildlife Park
- Explore World Heritage Listed Kakadu National Park and Litchfield National Park
- Cruise Katherine Gorge in Nitmiluk National Park
- Discover the untamed beauty of Arnhem Land
- Ride a camel
- Take a bush tucker tour
- Buy authentic Aboriginal artwork



Kata Tjuta, Central Australia

# Planning your Holiday

## Choosing the right accommodation for you!

### STAR RATINGS

Star ratings are used to describe the standard of accommodation and are supplied by the individual properties. Properties bearing the STAR symbols are independently assessed by AAA Tourism, the national tourism body of the Australian Auto Clubs.

The STARS and the STAR Rating Scheme are a Registered Trademark of AAA Tourism Pty Ltd. Travelpoint Holidays has no input into the assessment process and we therefore recommend they be used as a guide only.

#### HOTEL, MOTEL AND SELF CATERING RATINGS

- ★★★ Comfortable standard of accommodation
- ★★★★ High standard of accommodation and facilities
- ★★★★★ Superior standard of accommodation and facilities
- ☆ Denotes half star

If a property does not feature a star rating, it is yet to be assessed by AAA Tourism, or it has chosen not to be assessed.

### APARTMENT STYLE ACCOMMODATION

In general, self catering apartments feature cooking facilities with a minimum of microwave, hot plates, saucepans, crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils. Laundry facilities will be located either in the apartment, or in a guest laundry within the property. Most apartments are only serviced after 7 days and do not provide hotel facilities such as portage, room service or mini bars. Most apartments provide an initial supply of items such as tea, coffee, soap and toilet paper, however these items will not be replenished during your stay.

## Symbol Guide

- S** Day spa facilities are available.
- ♿** The property has one or more rooms providing wheelchair access with assistance.
- ♥** A bonus is available if you are celebrating a special occasion (eg. honeymoon). Advise your travel agent when booking. The definition of 'special occasion' and type of bonus offered is at each property's discretion. Conditions may apply.
- ★** Green STAR Accreditation certified by AAA Tourism to properties that have met key criteria in areas of energy efficiency, waste management and water minimisation.
- eco CERTIFIED** Product that has been accredited under the second level of the national Ecotourism Certification scheme.
- eco TRAVEL TO** Product that has been awarded the highest level of the national Ecotourism Certification scheme.
- SG** Savannah Guides — a network of professional tour guides who have in-depth knowledge of the natural and cultural assets of the tropical savannahs of northern Australia.
- ▲** Camping or cabin style accommodation is featured. Facilities vary — some camp grounds will have shower and toilet facilities, while more remote sites have limited facilities — e.g. a swim and a bush toilet.

## Pricing Guide

Prices featured in accommodation listings are per room for the period specified unless otherwise stated. The "from" price in the property heading has been calculated using the cheapest nightly rate available, i.e. in the lead-in room type, in off-peak season using the longest stay (e.g. 7 nights). A minimum stay is generally required. Where prices for more than a one night stay are featured, the prices refer to stays of consecutive nights.

# Travel Tips

## How to Get There

### BY AIR

Virgin Blue, Qantas and Jetstar service Darwin from capital cities throughout Australia. Qantas and QantasLink also offer capital city flights to Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Alice Springs. Skywest regional airline provides flights from Darwin to Perth and Broome.

### FLIGHT DURATION

FROM / TO	DARWIN	ALICE SPRINGS	ULURU (AYERS ROCK)
Sydney	4 hrs 40 mins	3 hrs 25 mins	3 hrs 35 mins
Melbourne	4 hrs 20 mins	3 hrs	-
Adelaide	3 hrs 35 mins	2 hrs 15 mins	-
Brisbane	4 hrs 5 mins	3 hrs 20 mins	-
Cairns	2 hrs 30 mins	2 hrs 30 mins	2 hrs 45 mins
Perth	3 hrs 50 mins	3 hrs 5 mins	2 hrs 35 mins
Darwin	-	2 hrs	-

The above table shows flight durations for direct flights only. Connecting flights from other destinations are also available. Times are a guide only and subject to change.

### BY RAIL

Take the ultimate journey through the heart of Australia on The Ghan. This amazing rail journey begins in Adelaide and traverses the Red Centre, passing through Alice Springs and Katherine before concluding in Darwin in the Top End (operates in reverse). For more information on this epic rail journey, see page 19 or ask your travel agent for details.

### BY CAR

Take the time to explore and discover as you make your way through the Northern Territory by road. Speed limits apply in all urban areas and highways of the Territory. Travellers should drive at a speed that suits the road, vehicle, weather conditions and their driving experience. Avoid driving after dark, as cattle and wildlife often congregate alongside outback highways at night. Be aware that rental car insurance is void for accidents after dark, outside of built-up areas.

Whether it's getting there or getting around we recommend Avis Car hire. See page 17 for details or ask your travel agent about the great specials Avis has to offer.

Travelpoint Holidays offers a selection of suggested driving itineraries, providing you with the freedom to discover some of the highlights of the Northern Territory at your own pace. Refer to the Self Drive Holidays starting on page 11 for more details.

### DISTANCES BY ROAD (KM)

DARWIN									
251	JABIRU								
314	296	KATHERINE							
423	405	109	MATARANKA						
978	960	664	555	TENNANT CREEK					
1482	1464	1168	1059	504	ALICE SPRINGS				
1808	1790	1494	1385	830	326	KINGS CANYON			
1923	1905	1609	1500	942	441	318	ULURU (AYERS ROCK)		
1885	1865	1571	1462	2233	2737	3063	3178	BROOME	
3050	3013	2713	2604	2040	1532	1700	1582	3014	ADELAIDE

Distances should be used as a guide only.

## More Great Holiday Ideas

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- Gold Coast • Brisbane
- Islands & Whitsundays
- Tropical North Queensland
- Cape York & Outback
- Queensland for Couples
- Queensland Rail Tours
- Indulgent Escapes Australia
- Cruise & Sail Australia



## WEATHER GUIDE - TEMPERATURE AVERAGE

	Central Australia	Top End
Summer	20°C to 36°C	Summer 25°C to 32°C
Autumn	12°C to 27°C	Autumn 23°C to 32°C
Winter	3°C to 20°C	Winter 20°C to 31°C
Spring	14°C to 30°C	Spring 25°C to 33°C

### WHAT TO BRING

In the tropical areas of Darwin, Kakadu and Katherine, the weather is always warm, so lightweight summer clothing is worn year-round. It can be cold during winter and at night in the Central Australian regions of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Uluru, so warmer clothing is required. Travelling in the bush is more comfortable in jeans or similar practical clothing and strong shoes. To ensure adequate protection from the sun we suggest you bring a broad-brimmed hat, SPF 30+ sunscreen, sunglasses and a long sleeved shirt.

### ABORIGINAL CULTURE

Almost one quarter of the Northern Territory's population are Aboriginal people and approximately half of the Territory is Aboriginal-owned land. Family business and ceremonies are an important part of life for Aboriginal people and these matters take priority. This can sometimes interrupt scheduled tours and access to some sites with spiritual significance may be restricted.

### FEES AND PERMITS

A National Park entry fee applies for visitors to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Many tours do not include this fee so it is essential to purchase a national park ticket prior to commencing your touring. The ticket is valid for three days and can be purchased from the National Park Entry Station. Driving over Aboriginal owned land and access into Arnhem Land is restricted. Visitors are required to apply for a permit from the Northern Land Council or alternatively it is best to choose a tour where operators already have permission from the traditional owners to enter their land.

### SWIMMING

The Northern Territory has many safe places to swim, including local nature reserves and in some national parks. Salt and freshwater crocodiles are found in most Top End billabongs and rivers, and are occasionally seen on remote beaches. This is generally sign-posted, but if you are unsure, don't swim. Beach swimming is not recommended from October to April due to marine stingers.

### CUSTOMER CARE SERVICE

We want your holiday to be memorable for all the right reasons, so it's comforting to know that if things don't go exactly to plan, our Customer Care team is here to help you. If you need assistance once your holiday has started, please contact our Customer Care helpline. You'll find the phone number on your travel documentation or itinerary.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Queensland	10 – 19 Apr 19 Sep – 4 Oct	27 Jun – 12 Jul 12 Dec 09 – 26 Jan 10
Victoria	4 – 19 Apr 19 Sep – 4 Oct	27 Jun – 12 Jul 19 Dec 09 – 26 Jan 10
New South Wales	10 – 27 Apr 3 – 18 Oct	11 – 26 Jul 19 Dec 09 – 26 Jan 10
ACT	10 – 27 Apr 26 Sep – 11 Oct	4 – 19 Jul 19 Dec 09 – 31 Jan 10
South Australia	10 – 26 Apr 26 Sep – 11 Oct	4 – 19 Jul 12 Dec 09 – 26 Jan 10
Western Australia	10 – 28 Apr 26 Sep – 12 Oct	4 – 20 Jul 18 Dec 09 – 31 Jan 10
Northern Territory	4 – 13 Apr 26 Sep – 4 Oct	20 Jun – 20 Jul 12 Dec 09 – 26 Jan 10
Tasmania	10 – 19 Apr 5 – 20 Sep	30 May – 14 Jun 18 Dec 09 – TBC