

DARWIN & EAST ARNHEM LAND NORTHERN TERRITORY



Cultural



Adventures

WHEN:

7 - 15 September 2023

WHERE:

Northern Territory
Australia

WHAT:

5-Days Yolju Homelands,
4-Days Darwin & Surrounds



Introduction

Photo: Lirriwi Tourism

This tour has so many highlights it's hard to pick just one. Starting in Darwin with a visit to visit the famous Mindil Beach Sunset Markets, a great opportunity to try street cuisine from all over the world. Or meet the artisans who come to sell their wares.

From here the real adventure begins as we fly to Nhulunbuy to take a 4WD to one of the remote Yolngu Homelands in North East Arnhem Land. The actual destination will not be disclosed beforehand. You will stay with Yolngu families and experience the traditional way of life which has been lived on country for over 40,000 years.

This is such a rare and exclusive opportunity. This tour works in consultation with many homelands to ensure that all have the opportunity to participate, learn and earn from tourism. Most importantly, this means that tourism does not dominate the cultural life of homelands allowing them flexibility for cultural commitments.

We head back to Darwin to discover the highlights of the city and the national parks of the Top End. We'll finish our trip with a sunset dinner cruise out on the harbour as we kick back and reminisce on the experiences and learnings from our time in the NT.

THE DETAILS

PRICE INCLUDES

- Small-Group - max 14 fully escorted
- Group transport to/from Darwin airport
- Flights Darwin to Nhulunbuy return
- Four nights accommodation in Darwin
- Four nights accommodation in East Arnhem Land
- Meals included: 7xB, 5,xL & 5xD
- Full day tour to Litchfield National Park with guide
- Darwin Harbour Sunset Dinner Cruise

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Flights to/from Darwin
- Meals not mentioned on the itinerary
- All expenses of a personal nature
- Travel Insurance (recommended)

COST PER PERSON

- **\$5,850/pp twin share**

OPTIONAL EXTRA - SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

- **\$850 own room (except days 2, 3 & 4)**



Darwin Mindil Markets

Photo: Mindil Markets

Day 1

Arrive in the NT

Arrive in Darwin early afternoon. If arriving with the group, transfers are included from the airport to the accommodation. Meet the group at the hotel lobby at 4.00pm and we'll head to the Mindil Beach Markets.

Mindil Beach Sunset Market is the heart of Darwin's cultural melting pot and truly epitomises the multicultural nature of the city! Darwin's largest market runs along the foreshore of Mindil Beach, famous for its stunning sunset over the Timor Sea.

Purchase your takeaway dinner from one of the stall holders from cuisine inspired from every corner of the globe and wander onto the beach to watch the sunset over the sea. A novelty experience for those living on the east coast of Australia.

Meet the group at 8.00pm for the transfer back to the accommodation.



East Arnhem Land Yolngu Homelands

Photo: Lirriwi Tourism

Day 2 - 5 (B, L, D)

We'll rise early for a transfer back to the airport to fly to Nhulumbuy. We'll be taking a 90 minute flight rather than a 28hour drive (if the roads are passable) - this place is remote!

On arrival we'll be met at the airport by our guide, and we're off. We'll spend three nights on a Yolngu Homeland with simple, shared indoor or outdoor accommodation with shared showers and toilets. The last night will be in Nhulunbuy township at a basic hotel.

Each Yolngu homeland has its own creation story, personality and landscapes. The Yolngu are widely regarded as the most culturally intact Aboriginal nation in Australia therefore being culturally sensitive is vital. The aim of this tour is to participate in the unstructured and less regimented Yolngu daily life. Nothing is set in stone, and each Yolngu homeland is different, and offers different activities. Be prepared to not follow the itinerary precisely

Some of the experiences and topics which MAY be covered depending on the homeland visited:

- Yolngu language - verbal and sign language
- Gender roles and responsibilities
- Kinship and moiety rules
- Stories about the area and history of the region (pre and post contact)
- Participating in traditional food gathering activities
- Traditional craft activities such as painting, weaving
- Participating in and learning traditional dance

Leave your life behind you for a few days. You will interact with the Yolngu people and their traditional lands on a much deeper level without any digital distractions.



Darwin City & National Parks

Photo: Lirriwi Tourism

Day 6 (B)

We have the morning to do a lovely walk around Gayṅaru Wetlands. It's a beautiful 3 km walk that winds through stunning paperbark forests with an abundance of native birds including the northern fantail, blue-faced honeyeater, white-bellied cuckoo-shrike and brown falcon. Watch for crocs though!

If we haven't had time before we will definitely visit the Buku-Larrṅgay Mulka Art Centre, one of Australia's premier Aboriginal art centres. The Yolṅu artists from this region have established a worldwide reputation for excellence and are well known for their bark paintings, memorial poles, woodcarvings and yidaki (didjeridu).

We'll fly back to Darwin arriving late afternoon. The rest of the day is free. Optional visit the Deckchair Cinema, an iconic Darwin venue. Check out what is showing as every night has a different movie.

Day 7 (B & L)

Sorry no lie-in today, it's up and at 'em to meet our guide who will take us for a full day (12 hours) wander through Litchfield National Park. Depending on how energetic we're feeling as to how much we'll get done, but the things which will get ticked off the list will be Wangi and Florence Falls, Buley Rockhole and a crocodile cruise. A fresh lunch will be provided as well as snacks and water. Bring your swimmers to cool off (not in croc infested waters though).

Day 8 (B & D)

Today is yours to discover Darwin for yourself. There is plenty to see and do, from museums to art galleries, from street walks to top-notch eateries. Whatever you do, be back at the hotel by 5.00pm as we head down to the wharf for a sunset dinner cruise to top off our time in the Top End.

Day 9 (B)

Tour finishes after breakfast. If you are returning to the airport with the group the transfer to the airport is included. If you want more, speak with us to see what you can add-on to your tour.