



# INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES NORTHERN TERRITORY

From Uluru to a multi-award winning safari, there are numerous unique Aboriginal experiences in the Northern Territory that will give travellers a true taste of Australia's Indigenous culture.

Blue Douglas

## BANUBANU WILDERNESS RETREAT BREMER ISLAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Escape to an exclusive, eco-wilderness retreat on Bremer Island in North East Arnhem Land for exciting tours of the northern extremities of Bremer Island, north of Nhulunbuy or to just relax and enjoy this spectacular island hideaway.

Banubanu Wilderness Retreat is a rustic eco-retreat in remote Arnhem Land that only accepts one small group of visitors at a time to assure total privacy and exclusivity.

Visitors can really enjoy life at their own pace in this pristine environment - go bird watching, catch and cook your dinner, see turtles hatching eggs or just comb the beach to find hidden treasures along this untouched strip of coastline. Come nightfall, the starlit skies, the brightness, clarity and sheer abundance of stars will certainly amaze.

Accommodation options include five twin share tents with shared bathroom amenities, the 'Hideaway Cabin' offering a double bedroom positioned in a lush tropical setting with its own deck and ensuite, and the "Beach Cabin" a double cabin with ensuite.



Island packages include all meals, permit fees and accommodation. Transfers are also available at an additional cost.

### HOW TO GET THERE:

Flights with Qantas Airlink and Air North arrive daily. Return transfers from the mainland to Banubanu are A\$160, light air charter costs can be provided on request.

T: 08 8987 8085

E: [enquiries@banubanu.com.au](mailto:enquiries@banubanu.com.au)

W: [www.banubanu.com](http://www.banubanu.com)



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## DAVIDSON'S ARNHEMLAND SAFARIS MT BORRADAILE, ARNHEMLAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Guests of Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris stay in an exclusive, award-winning lodge set amongst world-class galleries of rock art, spectacular landscapes of open woodlands, floodplains, monsoonal rainforests, idyllic billabongs and an abundance of flora and fauna.

Max Davidson, a larger than life Territorian, has been entrusted by the Traditional Owners, the Ulba Bunidj people, to show this spectacular and unique part of Australia to small groups of visitors.

Based in the newly refurbished lodge, visitors will be within half an hour of some of northern Australia's best rock art sites and most diverse ecosystems enriched by a cultural overlay that stretches back 50,000 years.

These multi award-winning safaris are the ultimate, exclusive wilderness experience. Visitors can relax, soak up the ambience and simply be amazed by the spiritual power of the landscape and its cultural connection to the worlds oldest continuing living culture.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris can organise air charters ex-Darwin or Jabiru at additional cost. The lodge is a four and a half hour drive from Darwin by 4WD vehicle only (seasonal), A\$50 per person track access levy is applicable.

T: 08 8979 0413

E: [info@arnhemland-safaris.com](mailto:info@arnhemland-safaris.com)

W: [www.arnhemland-safaris.com](http://www.arnhemland-safaris.com)

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## KAKADU CULTURAL TOURS KAKADU, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Djabulukgu Association – Kakadu Cultural Tours (KCT) offers unique and exclusive experiences in the Kakadu and Arnhem Land areas. KCT is the only operator offering travellers access to the incredible Hawk Dreaming Wilderness Lodge, an exclusive Lodge in the heart of Kakadu National Park. Located near Ubirr, on Aboriginal land, the Lodge offers just twelve tented cabins with full ensuite facilities.

Experiences for guests include the Guluyambi Cultural Cruise, Guluyambi Wet Season Cultural Cruise, Magela Creek System and One-Day Arnhemlander Cultural & Heritage Tour.

Aboriginal guides provide visitors with an insight into their culture, the river's abundant food chain, traditional uses for many plants and animals as well as bush survival skills. In Arnhem Land, visitors will be treated to a display of traditional hunting and gathering implements.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Flights service Darwin from most capital cities.  
Hire a car or travel by coach to Kakadu from Darwin.

**T:** 1800 525 238

**E:** [info@kakaduculturaltours.com.au](mailto:info@kakaduculturaltours.com.au)

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

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## KAKADU TOURISM

### KAKADU, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Kakadu Tourism is an Indigenous-owned collection of Kakadu wetland cruises, 4WD Kakadu adventure tours, cultural experiences and Kakadu accommodation. It is the largest collection of tourism facilities in Kakadu and is focused on positive Indigenous outcomes.

Enjoy a Yellow Water cruise, take a 4WD adventure tour or visit the cultural centre for an Indigenous perspective of the Kakadu World Heritage Area. Stay in the lodge, luxuriate in the four star hotel or camp out for a Kakadu adventure.

Warradjan Cultural Centre offers visitors an insight into the local Bininj culture through the use of interactive displays and exhibitions.

To maximise the time exploring its beauty, all Kakadu accommodation is centrally located in the park. Visitors can choose to camp, caravan or stay by a billabong at Cooina Lodge Kakadu, the gateway to Yellow Water Billabong or the deluxe Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel, a 4-star hotel uniquely shaped like a crocodile.



## HOW TO GET THERE:

Flights service Darwin from most capital cities. Take the Stuart Highway south from Darwin and then transfer to the Arnhem Highway towards Jabiru. Travel approximately 225km or 2.5 hours from Darwin. It's a further 54km to Cooina Lodge Kakadu.

T: 1800 500 401

E: [reservations@yellowwater.com.au](mailto:reservations@yellowwater.com.au) (Yellow Water Cruises)  
[reservations@crocodilehotel.com.au](mailto:reservations@crocodilehotel.com.au) (Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel)

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

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## LIRRWI YOLNGU TOURISM YIRRKALA, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Yolngu Dhukarr – Crossing Country is a seven day, six night ground tour in remote Northeast Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. The tour visits three small Yolngu homelands where participants can enjoy a truly authentic Aboriginal cultural experience whilst learning about the unique Yolngu culture, language and kinship.

Visitors can partake in a range of activities including gathering bush foods and medicines, traditional weaving, painting, making spears and message sticks, or playing a didgeridoo. Participants will receive traditional welcomes at each homeland throughout the full service tour that includes transport, accommodation, meals and cultural experiences.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Daily flights are available into Nhulunbuy with Qantas from Darwin or Cairns.

T: 08 8987 2828

E: [info@lirrwitourism.com.au](mailto:info@lirrwitourism.com.au)

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

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## LORD'S KAKADU AND ARNHEMLAND SAFARIS DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Explore the stunning landscapes, towering red escarpments, pristine waterfalls, billabongs and rocky outcrops of Arnhemland and Kakadu National Park with Lord's Kakadu and Arnhemland Safaris.

This multi award winning, family owned and operated overland tour company specialises in private luxury touring to Arnhemland and Kakadu National Park. It's one of only a few tourism operators with permission to enter traditional Aboriginal homelands in the region, which allows visitors to see the stunning landscapes of towering red escarpments, pristine waterfalls, billabongs, rocky outcrops and black soil plains.

With over 22 years experience as a guide in the Kakadu, Arnhemland and Kimberley regions, charismatic owner Sab Lord brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his tours.

These small group, tailor-made safaris range from three days to extended touring options which are all led by knowledgeable and friendly guides, who are experts in the abundant flora, fauna and rich cultural heritage of the region.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Flights are available from most capital cities to Darwin. Jabiru (Kakadu National Park) is 256 kilometres from Darwin.

T: 08 8948 2200

E: [lordssafaris@bigpond.com](mailto:lordssafaris@bigpond.com)

W: [www.lords-safaris.com](http://www.lords-safaris.com)



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## MARUKU ARTS

### ULURU, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Visitors can experience Anangu art and culture first hand by taking part in workshops provided by local Anangu artists. Participants will be inspired by the ancient symbols of the desert and able to create their own work of art to take home.

Established in 1984, Maruku Arts is owned by over 800 artists who live in the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in an area the size of Victoria with Uluru as the center point.

With a gallery in the Cultural Centre inside Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park, and a market stall at the Town Centre in Yulara, the organisation offers many opportunities to engage with authentic local Anangu culture. Workshops include dot painting, punu-making (traditional wood carving) and Welcome to Country inma (ceremonial song and dance).



## HOW TO GET THERE:

Maruku Arts is walking distance from accommodation in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

T: 08 8956 2153

E: [dotpainting@maruku.com.au](mailto:dotpainting@maruku.com.au)

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

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## NITMILUK TOURS KATHERINE, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Nitmiluk Tours offer a variety of tour experiences that allow visitors to immerse themselves in the history, rugged beauty and culture of this majestic region. Cruise, canoe, walk, fly, swim and embrace Nitmiluk Gorge - a breathtaking centrepiece of the Northern Territory.

The spectacular Nitmiluk Gorge features some of the most stunning scenery in the Northern Territory, with raging waterfalls (in season), a myriad of wildlife, and simply breathtaking views of the Jawoyn country. Nitmiluk Gorge winds along 12 kilometres of sheer rock more than 70 metres high.

Consisting of 13 separate gorges, Nitmiluk Gorge is a maze of waterways sculpted from the sandstone over countless millennia by the Katherine River.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Excellent sealed highways provide ease of access into the Katherine region, located approximately 300 kilometres south of Darwin on the Stuart Highway. The Park's main entrance is located 30 kilometres northeast of Katherine via a sealed road.

T: 1300 146 743

E: [reservations@nitmiluktours.com.au](mailto:reservations@nitmiluktours.com.au)

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

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## PUDAKUL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL TOURS DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Pudakul Aboriginal Cultural Tours is an Aboriginal owned and operated, tourism accredited business that delivers an authentic Aboriginal experience.

Pudakul is the name of the Macaranga tree (fresh water hibiscus), which is used to make spears. Pudakul offers a fascinating two-hour tour focused on the region's unique nature and culture departing at 10.30am from Thursday to Monday each week between April and November.

The Bush Tucker Walk showcases the rich local culture and amazing landscape, and offers the opportunity to see a didgeridoo and clapstick demonstration, basket and dilly bag making, learn about the common plant uses and engage with the local Aboriginal people over damper (bush bread) and billy tea.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Visitors can self-drive from Darwin for 45 minutes along the Arnhem Highway towards Kakadu. Pudakul is situated just 20 kilometres from Humpty Doo, before the famous Jumping Crocodile Cruises.

T: 08 8984 9282

E: [pudakulpact@bigpond.com.au](mailto:pudakulpact@bigpond.com.au)

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

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## RT TOURS AUSTRALIA CENTRAL AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Visitors can enjoy gourmet Bush Dinner Tours or for the more adventurous, head out on an extended Larapinta Trek to experience sensational food, rich cultural experiences and spectacular scenery with an Aboriginal guide who is also a fully trained chef.

Owner of RT Tours, Bob (Penunka) Taylor, is a descendant of the Arrente people and has spent 22 years working as a chef. Bob now delivers a range of experiences aimed at sharing gourmet food and Aboriginal culture at Uluru, Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon, Alice Springs as well as other spectacular spots. Tours range in duration from short lunch or dinner tours to an extended nine-day, outback adventure.

Lunch and dinner tours include a delicious home baked meal prepared in a bush barbecue setting, where visitors can enjoy a relaxed chat about Aboriginal culture. The dinner tour is enhanced by the opportunity to watch the sun set over the MacDonnell Ranges whilst feasting on a tasty, three course meal followed by a spectacular starlit sky.

Extended tours include bushwalking, bird spotting, storytelling and interpretations of Aboriginal art.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Flights from most capital cities service Alice Springs daily. All tours include hotel pick up/drop off in Alice Springs (unless otherwise noted).

T: 08 8952 0327

E: [bob@rttoursaustralia.com.au](mailto:bob@rttoursaustralia.com.au)

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

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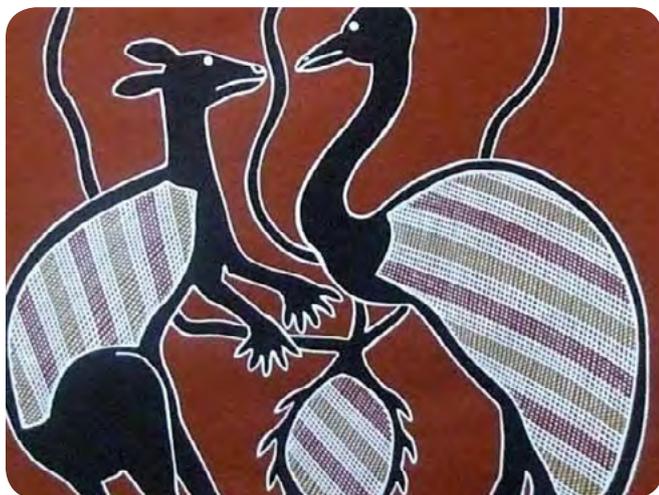
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## TOP DIDJ CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND ART GALLERY KATHERINE, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Top Didj is a truly authentic Indigenous cultural experience led by local artists. Visitors learn how to paint artwork, make fire with sticks, and test their skills at throwing a spear with a woomera.

Top Didj offers a unique cultural experience with the Aboriginal people of the Katherine region. Located in a peaceful bush setting just seven kilometres from the town centre, the experience captures the region's rich culture.

Local Aboriginal artists tell their story and showcase traditional activities such as fire lighting, spear throwing, and painting whilst learning about the local culture and way of life. This interpretive experience includes a range of hands on activities to gain an in-depth understanding of Aboriginal art and culture.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Top Didj is accessible by car and there is also room for bus parking on-site.

T: 08 8971 2751

E: [top.didj@bigpond.com](mailto:top.didj@bigpond.com)

W: [www.topdidj.com](http://www.topdidj.com)

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## VENTURE NORTH AUSTRALIA DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Visitors will see the unique animal and marine life of the remote Cobourg Peninsula, experience the Aboriginal culture and rock art of Arnhem Land, and be awed by the majestic waterfalls of Kakadu National Park.

Venture North Australia is one of the Northern Territory's leading cultural and eco-tourism operators, offering a very high standard of touring and expert guides and one-on-one experiences with local Aboriginal people that are second to none.

While 4WD touring from Darwin to the Top End's most exotic and unique destinations, visitors learn about the region's Aboriginal culture whilst visiting the waterways and wetlands that are host to an amazing array of wildlife including crocodiles, water buffalo, banteng, wild boar, goanna and dingo.

Venture North Australia takes travellers to a crystal clear pool in Kakadu National Park or across the East Alligator River border into Aboriginal Arnhem Land, where they can see ancient rock paintings and gain a firsthand understanding of the history and traditions of the world's oldest living culture.

At the remote Cobourg Peninsula and spectacular Garig Gunak Barlu National Park the Aboriginal occupants continue to hunt dugong and sea turtles using traditional methods such as spears. It is here that Venture North operates its unique safari-style Cobourg Coastal Camp.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Flights from most capital cities service Darwin daily.

**T:** 08 8927 5500

**E:** [info@venturenorth.com.au](mailto:info@venturenorth.com.au)

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

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## VOYAGES INDIGENOUS TOURISM AUSTRALIA (AYERS ROCK RESORT), ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia (Ayers Rock Resort) allows visitors to immerse themselves in the timeless landscape of one of the world's most stunning natural wonders. With more than 65 tours, local activities and attractions within the Resort and the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, days will be action-packed. Visitors can ride a camel across the desert dunes, hop on a Harley or take a base walk of Uluru (Ayers Rock) to name just a few.

Nestled behind spectacular sand dunes, the Resort itself lies hidden from the rest of the national park. Within this hidden gem, a visit to the new Red Ochre Spa is the perfect way to relax, as well as a stroll through the renowned Mulgara Gallery. By night, dine under a canopy of stars at the award-winning Sounds of Silence buffet BBQ dinner followed by a tour of the southern night sky with a resident astronomer. The resort also boasts 13 other dining experiences to whet guests' appetites.

This oasis provides a variety of accommodation options for every possible taste and budget - from the 5-star Sails in the Desert Hotel, to the self-contained Emu Walk Apartments and Ayers Rock Resort Campground.



### HOW TO GET THERE:

Direct flights to Ayers Rock (Conellan) Airport are available from Sydney, Cairns and Alice Springs and there are connecting flights from most capital cities. The airport is conveniently located just six kilometres from Ayers Rock Resort (10 minutes by car).

T: 02 8296 8010

E: [reservations@voyages.com.au](mailto:reservations@voyages.com.au)

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



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