

# Itineraries: Darwin

Darwin, the Northern Territory's capital, is a tropical, young and relaxed city that's unvisited by winter. This fresh and vibrant place largely draws its influences from 40,000-year-old Aboriginal traditions and its proximity to Asia. Dozens of nationalities collide in Darwin and locals enjoy a relaxed, outdoor lifestyle; where watching sunsets, dining at outdoor restaurants generally enjoying the balmy weather are the norm. Darwin is the gateway to nearby natural treasures like Kakadu National Park, Arnhem Land and the Tiwi Islands.

## Day 1

Spend the day exploring some of Darwin's attractions. Visit the Northern Territory Museum and Art gallery for an entertaining overview of the Territory's heritage and culture. Head out to Crocodylus Park to see massive saltwater crocodiles up close as they are hand-fed. Visit one of Darwin's many regular markets where you can buy local art and craft, fresh tropical fruits or some great Asian cuisine. End the day with a fresh seafood dinner at the Darwin Wharf Precinct overlooking Darwin Harbour.

## Day 2

Depart Darwin and travel long the Arnhem Highway to Kakadu National Park. On the way, jump on a cruise at the Adelaide River and watch crocodiles launch themselves out of the water. Arrive in Jabiru and visit the Bowali Visitor Centre where you'll learn about Kakadu's natural habitats, wildlife and Aboriginal people. This afternoon travel to Ubirr, a major Aboriginal art site showcasing an array of paintings and styles. Climb to the top and enjoy unobstructed 360-degree views as the sun sets over the floodplains and escarpment.

## Day 3

Get up early for a sunrise cruise on the palm-fringed Yellow Water Billabong to spot birds, animals and massive saltwater crocodiles. After your cruise, travel to Nourlangie Rock, a famous Aboriginal art site comprising ancient rock art galleries surrounded by diverse landforms of creeks, sandy plains, woodland and sandstone escarpment.

## Day 4

Take a light aircraft or jump on a ferry to the Tiwi Islands. Melville and Bathurst Islands, know collectively as the Tiwi Islands, are located north of Darwin in the Timor Sea. The Tiwi Aboriginal people are known for their distinctive fabric prints, pottery, sculptures, carvings and their love of Australian football. Spend a day on Bathurst Island and share their culture. Visit the community of Nguui. Learn about the history of Bathurst at the Museum and Early Mission Precinct with its Tiwi-style Catholic church. See artists and art and craft at the local art centres: Tiwi Design, Tiwi Pottery and Bima Wear. Meet with the Tiwi ladies for morning tea and a traditional totem dance.