



MATARANKA - NITMILUK GORGE - PINE CREEK





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When crossing from Queensland into the Northern Territory you need to put your clocks back ½ hour. Neither place has daylight saving.

South Australia and the Northern Territory usually share the same time, except from October to March, SA is one hour ahead.

If crossing from Western Australia into the Northern Territory add one and a half hours.











## marketing@absoluteme.com.au

#### www.exploreoz.com.au

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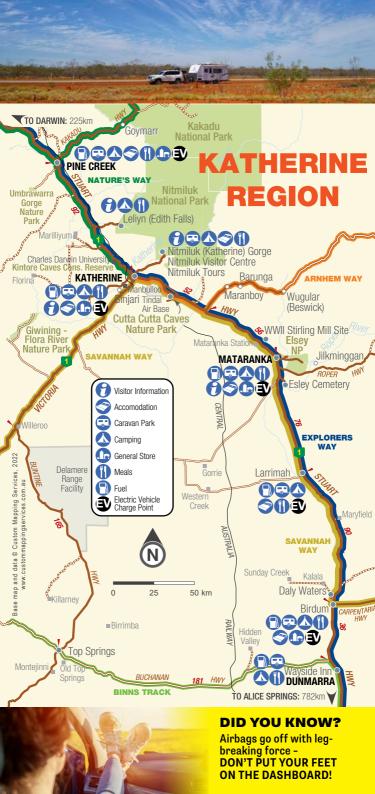
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#### SCAN + **DOWNLOAD +** LINKS!!

Make the most of the Guide-on-line while you are in Mobile range. Easy links to NT Parks Fact Sheets, websites and other handy tips.

All information included in this guide is for general use only. Times/Fees/Dates are subject to change without notice. All images are subject to change and may not reflect each product or service.





# SOUTH OF KATHERINE

#### **EXPLORERS WAY**

Historic points and markers, iconic Wayside Inns, termite mounds; just some of the fascinating things to make part of your journey interesting and great to explore!

#### **MATARANKA**

Mataranka is a small pastoral town, made famous by the novel "We of the Never Never", written by Jeannie Gunn. The story is about the nearby Elsey Station, written in 1908, and an autobiographical novel about the author's experiences and daily life, in 1902 at the station.

Along the main street of Mataranka offers plenty of reasons to stop in and top up for a few days of adventure.



Located behind the Roper Gulf Regional Council office, wander through the 'Never Never' Museum and browse the displays featuring local Aboriginal custodians, the Mangarayi and Yangman people, Överland Telegraph Line construction, the North Australian Railway and the World War II influences.

A family friendly town, there is plenty parking near the skate park offering tables and chairs and toilets. Scattered through the park on the northern end are assorted statues depicting the people from the Elsey Station in 1902, including Aeneas Gunn and wife Jeannie and a young girl known affectionately as 'The Little Black Princess' and her dog.

#### **DUNMARRA WAYSIDE INN**

**DUNMARRA WAYSIDE INN** is a fine example of the welcoming roadhouses scattered around the Barkly Region. There is a selection of cabins to stay in, or a camping ground to pull up at. Amenities include a restaurant and lounge to relax in. The food is renowned up and down the track. Don't miss out on treating yourself to the homemade vanilla slices!

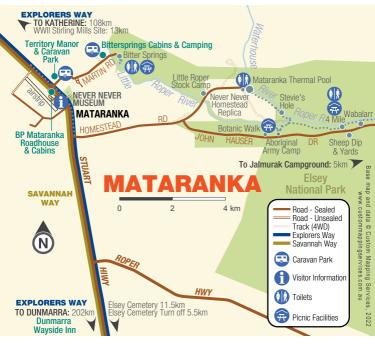


Slice along the Explorers Way! In-house Brewery coming!!!! Motel Rooms • Swimming Pool Caravan Park - Shady Sites Take Away Food• Dine-In Meals Licensed Bar • Airstrip

> Base yourself here and enjoy birdwatching & WWII connections all close by

#### **Stuart Highway**

358kms North of Tennant Creek 315kms South of Katherine Ph: 08 8975 9922 Open: Early to Late 7 Days



Approximately 13kms north of Mataranka, a historic site lays just off the road. The WWII Stirling Mill was in operation in 1942 and was important during the construction of the Gorrie Aerodrome, 10kms north of Larrimah.

# **MATARANKA DRY SEASON MARKETS**May – September SUNDAYS 9AM

**BP MATARANKA ROADHOUSE AND CABINS** is your one stop shop to fuel and stock up, with a discount for seniors to take advantage of! Enjoy a wonderful art gallery, fantastic coffee & café area, all your necessary travel supplies, you can even check out their great range of camping and fishing gear.





#### **ELSEY NATIONAL PARK**

Parks & Wildlife have introduced an online booking system. Check all Parks for site availability prior to arrival.







This is a popular place for boating and fishing fans, along the serene Roper River. With ramps at 4 Mile and 12 Mile offering an easy launch for your canoe or boat, you can easily spend a day paddling, fishing and exploring this stunning river.

Bushwalk through pockets of rainforests, discovering the park's riverine and rainforest species, on the easy Botanical Walk.

Visit the Elsey Homestead Replica, built in the 1980's for the film adaptation of the novel, the building is a reconstruction of the original homestead.

Explore the Old Elsey Cemetery, just south of Mataranka, with graves dating back to 1926, with many final resting places of the local characters written about in the novel.



#### **HOW MANY SPECIES IN ELSEY NATIONAL PARK?**











50+ Reptiles

TERRITORY MANOR MOTEL & CARAVAN PARK located on the north end of town, offers comfortable rammed earth motel rooms and shady caravan park sites. With a restaurant with indoor or outdoor dining options, this is a great central spot to park up for a few days.











51 Martin Rd, Mataranka www.territorymanor.com.au





TERRITORY MANOR



#### **BITTER SPRINGS**

A short 2km drive off the Stuart Highway, Bitter Springs is a must do, for a dip or a day to two. Along the Roper River, discover clear thermal springs, famous for the blue highlights and clear waters. Set amongst tropical woodlands including paperbark forests and near pristine stands of the *Livistona mariae* fan palm, throughout the Elsey Park there are over 300 plant species.

The thermal pools in the park, has spring water rising from under the ground, at a rate of 30.5 million litres per day. The 34°C water is then contained in pools surrounded by paperbark and palm forests.



BITTERSPRINGS CABINS & CAMPING, a quiet peaceful place where you can fish on the banks of The Little Roper River or enjoy the clear waters of Bitter Springs a short walk away. Base yourself here for at least a few days for great amenities and comfortable cabins.







#### **CUTTA CUTTA CAVES NATURE PARK**

Accessed from the Stuart Highway, approximately 75kms north of Mataranka and only 30kms south of Katherine, the Cutta Cutta Caves are set within nearly 1500 hectares of Nature Park. They are the only publicly accessible example of limestone caves in Australia! Enjoy a tour through the caves with Nitmiluk Tours. \*Fee applies



Formed millions of years ago these caves are about 15 metres below the surface and are still growing today. The karst landscape contains many nooks and crannies which shelter wildlife during the heat of day. Dominated by tropical savannah, enjoy the short 20 minute Tropical Woodland walk, beginning near the car park. The 650m Karst Walk to the caves is accessible only to those going on a tour.

Cutta Cutta is a Jawoyn name for many stars. It was forbidden for Aboriginal people to enter the cave system. They believed this is where the stars were kept at night.

A stockman found the main cave in about 1900, naming it Smith's Cave, but during World War II servicemen renamed it 16 Mile Cave.



#### WILDLIFE

Birds like the Common koels, Figbirds and Bowerbirds help disperse seeds and pollinate flowers along the rainforest floor. You may be lucky to see the Hooded Parrot or the endangered Gouldian Finch. Various Lizards and the harmless Brown Tree Snake are often seen with 5 species of bats, including Ghost & Horseshoe that are rarely seen. Keep a look out for Euro, Agile Wallaby and Antilopine Wallaroo.



Delve 15 meters below the surface to discover the amazing limestone caves. (Enclosed shoes are mandatory - no thongs, crocs, sandals, hiking sandals) Guided Tours are the only way in which to see the Cutta Cutta cave. 27 kms south of Katherine

Tour Times 9am 10am 11am 1pm 2pm 3pm



Nitmiluk Katherine

nitmiluktours.com.au 1300 146 743

## **KATHERINE**

Where the outback meets the tropics, offering a mix of recent history and a story rich in culture



Katherine has a fascinating history. Ancient Aboriginal culture blends with more recent European settlement, combining to make this town and surrounding region the special place that it is today. Situated on the Katherine River, 320kms southeast of Darwin, Katherine is known as the place where "the outback meets the tropics" and is the central hub of the Savannah Way, which stretches from Cairns in Queensland, right across to Broome, W.A.

The town site of Katherine, originally an 1870 settlement on the south bank of the river for which it was named (the present Knott's Crossing) moved 3km downstream to the north bank. This location was named Emungalan (the Indigenous name for "Place of Stone") and a railhead for the North Australian Railway operated here from 1917 to 1926. This township quickly grew to 200 people, 90% of whom were male!

The construction of the high-level railway bridge in 1926 established the final location of Katherine town, back on the south bank. Very little remains of Emungalan other than a small cemetery and a few building relics. This final settlement included a new railway station, and the town became an important transportation link. The Great Depression era followed, bringing many challenges, which continued through until World War II.

#### DAGOMAN - WARDAMAN - YANGMAN

This is the traditional lands and a meeting place for Dagoman, Wardaman and Yangman tribes/people whom had similar language/dialect, skin/kinship, ceremonial and Lore systems. Katherine was their historical common ground meeting place for thousands of years.

DAGOMA 'Similar references to animals other words we	N WORDS re also used for Wardaman and Yangman people
DAGOMAN WORD	WORD MEANING
Jekban	Plain Turkey
Garngma	Kangaroo
Bardanin	Fish
Yiwung	Black Currant
Gurlid	Green Plum
Ngulu	Skin/Kin Group
Warrdija	Crocodile
Barmgoon	Woman
Ibiyan	Man

Skin names Nangala, Nalyidi, Nawala, Nangari, are the same for Dagoman, Wardaman and Yangman people



**WORLD WAR II** saw a significant military presence in the NT, to protect Australia's northern shore from the outbreak of war in the Pacific Ocean. Katherine became the southern most point of bombing by Japanese aircraft, resulting in the largest bomb crater in Australia!

**THE HIGH-LEVEL BRIDGE** was constructed in 1976, at the cost of a million dollars. Finally, there was a reliable means of vehicle crossing of the Katherine River. The bridge was the highest road bridge built anywhere in the Northern Territory and still provides reliable crossing to larger vehicles and road trains to this day. The bridge was named the Eugene Betti bridge after one of the construction foremen in 1991.

JOHN MCDOUALL STUART passed through the region in 1862. Within 10 years the Katherine Telegraph Station was built. The completed Overland Telegraph Line bisected Australia and laid the groundwork for the railway from Adelaide to Darwin which commenced in 1878 but wasn't completed till 2004!

KATHERINE RAILWAY works were intended to link Darwin (then known as Palmerston) with Port Augusta in the south. The line made it to Pine Creek in 1889, Katherine in 1926, and 8km south of Larrimah in 1929, but work ceased, and the line closed in 1976. The dream of the north-south line languished until that final section was finished through to Alice Springs in 2004, enabling passengers to travel all the way through from Adelaide to Darwin on the famous 'Ghan.'



#### KATHERINE AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	35°	34°	35°	34°	32°	30°	30°	33°	35°	38°	38°	37°
Low	24°	24°	23°	20°	17°	14°	13°	16°	20°	24°	25°	24°

## KATHERINE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE



(08) 8972 2650 visitor@ktc.nt.gov.au www.visitkatherine.com.au Cnr Lindsay St & Stuart Hwy

10 Explore Katherine Katherine



#### THE KATHERINE RIVER

This important river was named by John McDouall Stuart on 4th July 1862, after the second daughter of pastoralist James Chambers, one of the expedition's sponsors. Its head waters are in the Nitmiluk National Park and follows through the town, also a major tributary of the Daly River. The Katherine River drops around 384m over its total length of 328kms.

Floods have been recorded throughout the years and major ones in 1957 with another in the main street in 1974.

In late January 1998, after heavy rain associated with Cyclone Les, producing 400ml of rainfall in a 48 hour period, the level of the river was raised by more than 21 metres and flooded a large part of the town. This caused the evacuation of two thirds of the community and major devastation.

In April 2006 a state of emergency was declared with the river peaking at 19 metres at the Katherine Bridge, on the Stuart Highway.



With much of Katherine's history being tied up in the railway - the site of Katherine itself was moved twice during the railways construction, finding it's eventual home in 1926.

#### FOR INJURED WILDLIFE CONTACT

(08) 89 886 121 or 0408 885 341





## **ATTRACTIONS**

Add adventure, culture and fascinating historic sites together. and you'll make lasting memories

Katherine Hot Springs

#### **KATHERINE HOT SPRINGS**

Only 5 minute drive from the Katherine Post Office, you can enjoy a refreshing dip in thermal springs.

These natural springs are tucked into the banks of the Katherine River. Comprising of a series of clear pools, the first top pool is the direct source of the spring.

The water is clear with an average temperate being between 25-30 degrees Celsius, varying throughout slightly during the day. Enjoy a refreshing swim and relax in the thermal waters.

Enjoy a swim in the pools before, or after, a stroll along a scenic walking trail, that is well signed and informative.

Relax with an afternoon picnic in a large, shaded grass area, with facilities including tables, chairs, toilets and a Pop Up Café, and plenty of room for young ones to release some energy.



The main pool has a wheelchair access ramp, stainless steel hand rails and steps formed out of rock.

Open: Daily - 7am to 7pm

Please Note: Access to the Katherine Hot Springs may be restricted during the Wet Season (September - April) dependent on river levels.

**#ExploreKatherine** 

#ExploreOz





## KATHERINE OUTBACK EXPERIENCE

Owned by Golden
Guitar winning
singer songwriter,
Tom Curtain, the
national awardwinning Outback Show celebrates
life in the outback through real
horse training and working dog
demonstrations entwined with
humorous bush tales. The twohour Show is raw and real and an
experience for all. See why it has
been awarded NT's Best Tourist





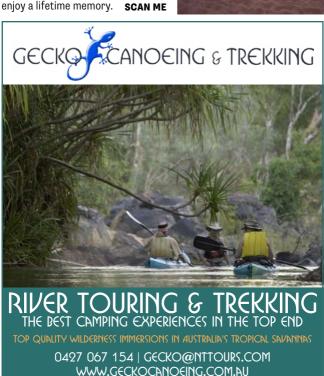


#### **GECKO CANOEING & TREKKING**

has been offering award winning tours for many years to ensure you experience river touring at its best. Incredible wildlife 'close ups' and relaxed camping where you just have to paddle and enjoy the comfort cooked meals. Explore places where others don't venture with experienced guides in all things river touring, birding and trekking. With a great variety of packages available,

of packages available, you can even ask for a tailored experience, to enjoy a lifetime memory.







#### KATHERINE HELICOPTERS

is a helicopter tour operator based in Katherine, Northern Territory. Operating two Bell Helicopters we offer a range



we offer a range of services, from tour flights up the serene Katherine Gorge to bespoke Heli-Fishing trips through-out the Top End of Australia. With the ability to carry up to six passengers in one aircraft, Katherine Helicopters are sure to be able to cater for all your helicopter needs.





A locally owned family business offering helicopter scenic flights throughout Katherine and the Top End.

- Katherine Gorge
- Natherine Gorge
   17 Mile Valley
- Edith Falls
- Kakadu
- Remote Landing at Sunset with Champagne and Cheese Platter







#### LOW LEVEL NATURE RESERVE

Known to the local Aboriginal people as Gowutjima, a place associated with the river boiling and bubbling and rich in resources, the area has been used for generations.

In the 1930's, travellers on the North South Road began using The Low Level river crossing, whereas the original settlement, in 1872, had been using Knotts Crossing.

During the second World War, the Low Level Bridge was built, enabling traffic to cross the Katherine River. Underneath the Low Level Bridge there is a concrete weir, offering a wonderful photo opportunity as the water cascades over to the lower level.

Impassable during the majority of the wet season (Dec - April), when the water level can reach over 12m above. during the Dry season it is just over a metre high.

Since being built, over the years the Low Level Nature Reserve has become a popular local swimming hole. Water depths along the banks of the River are only 1-2 metres, with rock pools fringing the edge. This makes it ideal for families to cool down and enjoy.



A shady grassed picnic area is on the western side of the Low Level Nature Reserve, above the river bank. With a playground for the children to enjoy, gas BBQ and toilet facilities, this is a place you can truly relax.

#### **DID YOU KNOW? CROCODILES**

- Replace up to 4000 teeth in their lifetime
- Lifespan of 35-75 years
- Top swimming speed 35Kph
- Can grow between 1.5 and 7 metres

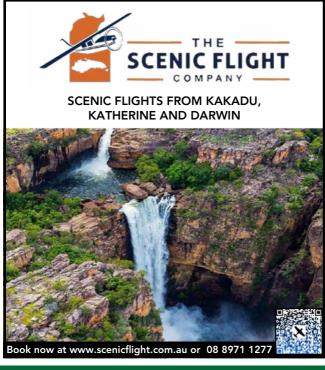


# THE SCENIC FLIGHT COMPANY offers an experience of incredible scenery over the Katherine and Kakadu region. From 40 min flights to 4-5 hour Scene Everything tours, this is an experience to last you a lifetime. You can even tailor a package to suit your dreams and budget. Explore Katherine and Kakadu like never before with the NT's

leading charter and scenic

flight company.







## HISTORIC HOUSES, INTERESTING ICONS AND A MEDICAL MAN

The history of a region can offer an insight to what it took to establish the thriving community you see today. The pioneers of a town, are people who do what they can do, the best they can, and the whole community benefits and grows. Katherine is full of characters, reminders and memories, and shares them well. It's makes it easy to explore so many of them.



#### See Katherine Museum Heritage Trail Points of Interest on page 22-23

**DR CLYDE FENTON OBE**, was a self-taught pilot who flew without the aid of navigation equipment and air charts. Unlike other doctors with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), he was his own pilot, as the RFDS did not use doctors as pilots. Fenton privately raised money for an aircraft and, in March 1934, arrived in Katherine as the Government Medical Officer. His aerial ambulance rescue service grew into the Northern Territory Areal Medial Service.

In 1940, Dr Fenton was called up by the RAAF and eventually based at Manbulloo airstrip, making many emergency medical flights. Leaving the Territory after the war, he left behind a Gipsy Moth, his name to a primary school and other legacies.

#### THE KATHERINE MUSEUM AND GARDENS

Discover the unique history of the Katherine region. Start at the McNamara Cottage and House of Iris gift shop, visit Dr Clyde Fenton's Gipsy Moth, explore the Overland Telegraph Line display and Wallie's Shed to see diverse displays of people, place and culture.



# EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF THIS FASCINATING REGION



- · Diverse displays of people place and culture
- Dr Clyde Fenton's, the flying doctor,
- iconic Gipsy Moth
- House of Iris Gift and Book Shop
  Free community and children's gardens
- 08 8972 3945
- matherinemuseum.com.au
- info@katherinemuseum.com.au
- facebook.com/KatherineMuseum
  Control Road, Katherine NT
  Control Road, Katherine NT
  Control Road, Madmission fees apply

Explore Katherine Attractions



#### THE O'KEEFFE RESIDENCE

Restored by the National Trust in 1988, this small residence was built in 1942. After the war, housing was in short supply so homes were built from whatever they find.

Built using local Cypress pine, iron sheeting, bark for the ceiling and flywire. This is wonderful example of bush innovation and construction, and one of very few of these buildings left.

Despite other well known owners, the house gained its name from its last residence, John & Olive O'Keeffe. Olive was a nurse for Dr Fenton before WWII, who both were well known, dedicated locals, giving so much to their growing community.

#### THE BRONZE HORSEMAN ICON

A tribute at the southern entrance to the main street of Katherine, to Peter Sing - Sabu, for his role as a pioneering outback stockman and contributions to the cattle industry.

Born in December 1940 to Wardaman woman Maggie Jaman, and father, station cook Harry Kim Sing. At the age of 4 Maggie gave her son Mele to Manbulloo Station manager, Tom Fisher who raised him as his own and called him Sabu. Being part of two cultures, Mele found the distant sounds of ceremony, heard from the homestead, difficult and upsetting.



Later Sabu contacted his mother and husband who were employed at Wave Hill, while he was working as a stockman. Sabu was made head stockman, thanks to expert guidance from other legendary stockman.

Sabu could speak Gurindji, Mudburra and Walpiri languages, mimic bird and animal calls and could soothe the wildest of horses. He made leather goods and could turn his hand to any type of bush craft.

**KATHERINE PUBLIC LIBRARY** is a comfortable setting where you can select from a great variety of reading and digital options. This is an opportunity to learn more on the local history of the region from a good selection of non-fiction and fiction books. Or take advantage of the printing service if needed during your travels or just enjoy a cool, quiet and relaxed space.



## **EVENTS & FESTIVALS**

Join in and enjoy the diverse events held in the Katherine region, meet the locals and enrich your holiday.

Barunga Festival

#### **KATHERINE REGION EVENTS 2023**

#### **APRIL 2023**

Katherine Multicultural Festival 1-2 April

w.katherine.nt.gov.au/events/

Daly Waters Campdraft & Rodeo 27-30 April

35th Big Horse Barra Classic

28 April - 1 May kgfc.net.au

#### **MAY 2023**

Mataranka Never Never Festival

12 - 14 May

m/MatarankaNeverNeverFestival

Mataranka Rodeo

13 May

Katherine Run Festival

14 May

kmsc.com.au

#### **JUNE 2023**



#### Junk Festival

3 June

katherineregionalarts.org.au

**Edith Falls Triathlon** 

18 June

kmsc.com.au

Barunga Festival

9-12 June barungafest.com.au





#### **JULY 2023**

**Territory Day** 

July 1

territoryday.nt.gov.au

**NAIDOC Week Celebrations** 

2-9 July

www.naidoc.org.au

4 Hour MTB

8 July

kmsc.com.au

**Katherine Show** 

21-22 July



#### **AUGUST 2023**

Nitmiluk - Katherine Ultra Challenge 6 August

kmsc.com.au

Katherine Cup Race Day

19 August

katherineturfclub.com.au

Gurindii - Freedom Day Festival

Date TBC - check website

freedomday.com.au





#### FLOCK TO THE KATHERINE REGION **BIRDS AND FESTIVALS**

South of the Cutta Cutta Caves this region offers an amazing array, of specialist birds in the region to be seen and you are in for some diverse, colourful and well camouflaged birds, so keep a look out!

To the north, an early morning quiet spot, near shallow pools of water you can be rewarded with a Gouldian Finch along the Edith Falls Road or a Hooded Parrots enjoying a drink in the Pine Creek township

Southwest, along the Victoria Highway out to the Buntine Highway you can enjoy the finches. The Long Tail Finch, Masked Finch, Star Finch and Gouldian's can be seen or a glimpse of the Chestnut-backed Buttonquail in the grasses.

To the East, from the Cutta Cutta Caves to the Central Arnhem Highway offers Black-tailed Treecreeper, Northern Crested Shrike-tit and Banded Honeyeaters to name just a few.

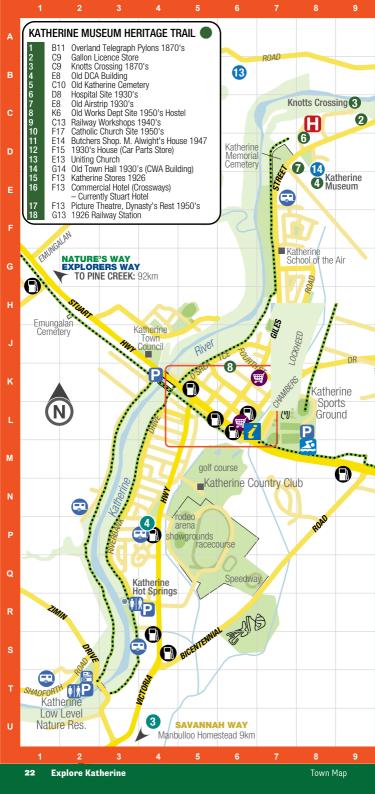
Everywhere the raptors are an aweinspiring sight like the mighty Wedge Tail Eagle and Black-breasted Buzzard, and along the river many birds abound such as Fantails, Flycatchers and the secretive Great-billed Heron.

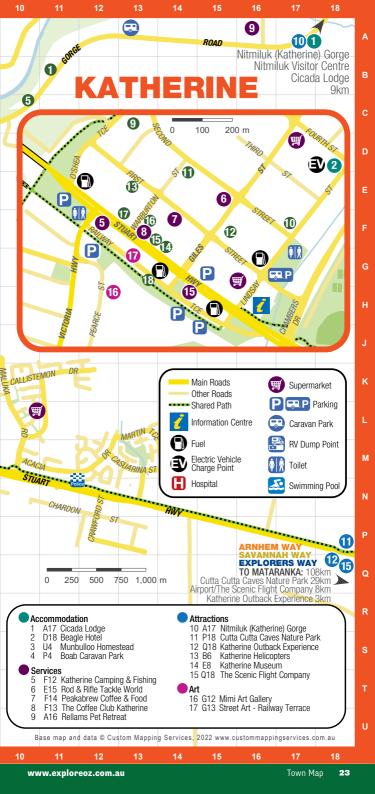
Tick off any you spot in your travels!

- Gouldian Finch
- Hooded Parrot
- Crested Shrike-tit
- Northern Rosella
- Apostle Bird
- Great-billed Heron

Crested Shrik









# ART & CULTURE

The colours, textures and spirit of the region inspires both traditional and modern art forms; all highlighting creativity and beauty

#### STREET ART

Throughout the town you are enticed to admire the colours and stories of the street art. In 2019 a collaboration instigated by Katherine Regional Arts (KRA), between Proper Creative Darwin and their professional street artists and local community members, brought together different aspects drawn from the region and town through art.

Some collaboration enjoyed the involvement of local young people, who helped from the beginning with the design inspiration, painting, and the outlines of the murals.



'Bats and Mangoes', designed by 17 year old Chloe Forscutt and installed by Chloe and Mackinlay Colling. Mentored by muralist Kaff Eine, they were helped to execute this colourful creation, found on the main road of the CBD.

These murals create a sense of ownership and pride of a very public place in Katherine

- KRA executive officer Jacinta Mooney

Jesse Bell is one of the Northern Territory's most notable muralists and was commissioned to install the mural, designed by another Territory artist Dave Collins, that commemorates the Royal Australian Air Force. This is positioned opposite the military memorial on Station Road.





#### MIMI ABORIGINAL ART & CRAFT

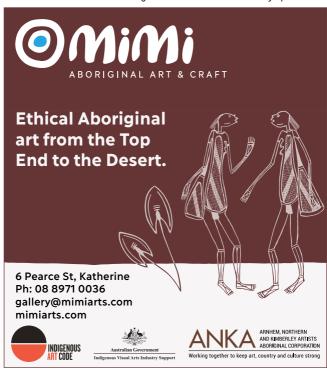
Our artwork is as diverse as the lands and people it represents. Spanning the entire Katherine region, from the Tanami Desert in the west, up to the Kimberly and across to Arnhem Land.

We proudly display and stock the diverse styles and mediums Indigenous to these lands.

Mimi Aboriginal Art and Craft is a 100% Aboriginal community-owned not-for-profit art centre,



Come and discover our exciting new Art Centre and Gallery space.





## **DINING**

Coffee, cakes, clubs and a variety of restaurants are on offer in the Katherine region, enjoy!

## PEAKABREW

"NICE CAFE, GREAT COFFEE AND FRIENDLY SERVICE" ROBYN, VICTORIA JUNE 2022

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

6-2 WEEKDAYS & 7-2 WEEKENDS

20 FIRST STREET, KATHERINE



**PEAKABREW COFFEE & FOOD** is the locals 'go to' so you know this is a good place for coffee! A great café to relax and enjoy the great service, food and atmosphere. Their local events wall can also keep you informed of what else you can do in Katherine.

Drop into **THE COFFEE CLUB** for breakfast, lunch or brunch, for the coffee you know is going to be good. Always offering great meals, cakes or snacks you also get some of the best customer service in town. This makes for a great start to the day. Drop in today.

THE COFFEE CLUB

# Where will I meet you?

**08 8973 5401** 23 Katherine Tce



### NITMILUK (KATHERINE) - DINING



From stunning views at the Visitor Centre Café to fine dining

Nitmiluk at Cicada Lodge or enjoying an amazing sunset dinner tour,

you are spoilt for choice at Nitmiluk National Park.

P: 1300 146 743 E: reservations@nitmiluktours.com.au







www.nitmiluktours.com.au

## **SHOPPING**

With the main street a real hub of local businesses, don't forget to stroll down the side streets, arcades and shopping hubs to support the locals!



#### **BOTTLESHOP HOURS**

We know the NT is warm, thirsty weather, but if you purchase take away alcohol you just need to plan ahead. Most towns in the NT are a 'dry town' meaning that you cannot consume alcohol in public places within the town region.

Other regions may have adjusted hours so it pays to check the website to check the open times: takeawayalcohol.nt.gov.au

**KATHERINE CAMPING & FISHING**, the locals go-to for all things adventure and outdoors. With years of experience in the region the team at Katherine Camping & Fishing can supply you with caravan parts and accessories, top brand fishing gear, camping and hiking gear and everything else you need to get you out and about in the Top End's great outdoors. As well as wealth of local knowledge.





- Camping Equipment
- Hiking Products & Food
- Fishing Gear
- Caravan Spares
- Gas Refills
- Toilet Chemicals



Convenient Caravan & Motorhome parking out the back



58 Katherine Terrace, Katherine (Corner of Stuart & Victoria Highways)

www.katherinecamping.com PH (08) 8972 3456



One of Katherine's fishing main attraction is how close you are to a variety of some of the best Territory fishing spots. From amateur to strong enthusiast to professional, all anglers will enjoy not just the picturesque settings but the excitement of fishing these rivers.

Fishing the Katherine River, after the tropical summer has passed, your catch could include Sooty Grunter and Barramundi. Close by you have some great spots like Knotts Crossing, Low Level Bridge and west to Galloping Jacks (Crystal Rapids) to take throw a line in.

ROD N RIFLE TACKLE WORLD, a local family business has been looking after the locals and visitors alike for all their camping, fishing and hunting needs, for over 35 years. Stocking a huge range of your favourite brands, get expert knowledge, great tips from people who are passionate about all things outdoors.





28 Explore Katherine Shopping

## **ACCOMMODATION**

You'll find the right place to rest your head at night, indoor or outdoor.





#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Mobile phones and chargers are one of the most common items to be left behind.

**Travel Tip:** Before departing, make sure to set your plugged-in phone on top of something else you won't forget. Items that are put together in 'clusters' make them less likely to be left behind.

MANBULLOO HOMESTEAD & CARAVAN PARK is one of the only family run, locally owned parks in the region. Offering a variety of accommodation options, pet friendly, on a rural peaceful environment, with bird watching and wonderful bush walks along the Katherine River, this is your best option to base yourself to explore the region.







0421 381 378 · facebook.com/KatherineFarmstay · 340 Shadforth Rd

KATHERINE FARMSTAY is a small family-run business, catering for caravans, campers and tents, located 10 minutes from the centre of town on the Katherine River. With a playground, recreation room with plenty of activities for everyone, fishing and private boat ramp, amenities and laundry facilities, and daily animal feedings.

Parks & Wildlife have introduced an online booking system. Check all Parks for site availability prior to arrival.



· Kids stay free · Pet friendly



· River access for boating and fishing



## **NITMILUK (KATHERINE) - ACCOMMODATION**



With so many options, it is easy to find the right accommodation to suit your comfort, style and budget. Stay in this stunning setting to make lasting memories.

P: 1300 146 743

E: reservations@nitmiluktours.com.au







www.nitmiluktours.com.au

BEAGLE MOTOR INN offers travellers a clean and comfortable stay, with Stormy's Bar & Bistro a locals favourite too! Unpack for a few days and enjoy a relaxed stay or a great base to explore.



Ph: (08) 8972 3998 info@beaglemotorinn.com 2 Fourth Street, Katherine beaglehotel.com.au

#### Comfortable & convenient right in the heart of Katherine, NT



## **CAMPING & CARAVAN ETIQUETTE**

**NOISE** - Keep your music and noise to a level that is polite for your space only. If you are in a family park, which most are, children will always be children. Be tolerant.

PETS - Just because you love your pet, others may not. Always have your animals on a lead, fenced in, or appropriately caged. Always pick up waste after your animal.

**WATER** - Check with each park if there is a fee for filling tanks due to drought. Some places are grateful for your grey water on the ground, others not so. Check first.

AMENITIES - Never empty your toilet casette in the ablution block of any public toilet. Always clean up after yourself in shared bathrooms. Think of others.

**SPEED LIMITS** - Stick to the speed limit. You are on holidays. Slow down.

MIND YOUR SPACE - Don't cut through other people's sites, especially under their awnings, just to save a few steps. Be neighbourly.

**RUBBISH** - Dispose of your rubbish in bins provided. Otherwise dispose of it at your next opportunity.

Enjoy **BOAB CARAVAN PARK**, Katherine's Boutique Caravan Park, where you can immerse yourself on lush landscaped gardens, giant shady trees and comfortable accommodation. With all this situated at the doorstep of Nitmiluk National Park, make this your base to explore.



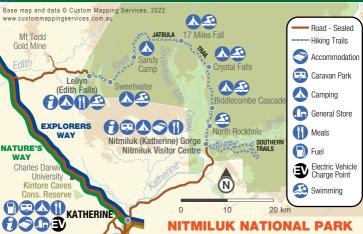




## NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

An ancient, diverse and spectacular landscape where Jawoyn people live, work and continue to share their culture with the community and visitors

Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge



For thousands of years Nitmiluk has been the foundation of the Jawoyn Aboriginal people, providing an abundance of water and food, and a gallery of art and artefacts. Today it's a living testament of ancient Aboriginal culture.

The park's main entrance is located 30 kilometres northeast of Katherine via a sealed road. Keep a watch out for the many Wallabies - small Kangaroos - that are inquisitive of visitors and haven't yet learned the road rules. See Page 37 for Gorge Rd icons

Many visitors to the Northern Territory choose to immerse themselves in the natural beauty and culture of Nitmiluk Gorge and National Park with an extended stay in the region or at the Nitmiluk Caravan and Camping grounds, while others with pressing travel schedules have only the time to touch the surface of this ancient landscape.

#### WHEN TO VISIT

The most comfortable time to visit Nitmiluk National Park is from May to September. During the wet season, flooding of the Katherine River may restrict the range of activities available and in some cases prevent access to the park.

#### THE CICADA - DID YOU KNOW?

- Only the males sing
- Females can lay up to 600 eggs
- Their songs can reach 120 decibels
- Can live for up to 17 years in the nymph stage



TRADITIONAL SEASONS									
Jeyowk	January February	Wet weather							
Bankarrang	March April May	End of wet weather							
Mapaparr	June July August	Cold dry weather							
Jungalk	September October November	Hot dry weather							
Guran	December	Hot and humid weather,							

#### **NITMILUK (KATHERINE) GORGE**

Formed over millions of years, as the Katherine River, originating in Kakadu National Park, carved through ancient sandstone forming thirteen gorges. Stunning waterfalls, rapids and magnificent vistas of escarpments look down on this amazing landscape.

Freshwater crocodiles are seen sunbaking along sandbanks, while a variety of birds and wildlife surround you in a variety of habitat areas.

There are areas specifically for swimming and canoeing, a truly magnificent way to explore this ancient region.



## Helicopter Flights

Scenic Flights • Private Tours Rock Art Tours • Swim Tours







## Visitor Centre Café • Souvenirs

#### **Cultural Tours**

Book your tours & adventure fun with the friendly staff





nitmiluktours.com.au 1300 146 743 reservations@nitmiluktours.com.au



Weleka Walk Yambi Walk

link tracks

Difficult - Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked.

Moderate to Difficult - Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.

Jawoyn Valley Moderate to Difficult - Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited. Baruwei Loop Moderate - Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.

#### **BARUWEI WALK VIA LOOKOUT**

Shared Trail - MTB and Walking

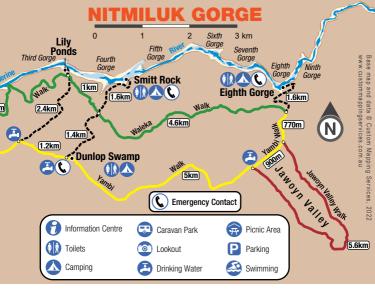
Distance return from Nitmiluk Centre	Time return from Nitmiluk Centre	Features (summary)	Trail Rating	Water Available (river water is not treated)		
1.8km	1 hour	Views of the picnic area, Katherine Gorge & 17 Mile Valley	Grade 3 MODERATE A short steep track Conditions vary	Water available at the Nitmiluk Centre or from tanks at the top of the hill.		
2.2km	2 hours	Continue walk from lookout along escarpment and back down towards the visitor centre.	As above	As above		



#### **GRADE 3 - MODERATE**

Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20 km.





#### BARUWEI

Experience a taste of what Nitmiluk's great walking network offers, even if your time is limited. On the western end of the Katherine Gorge, the Baruwei Lookout and Loop Walks provide views of the picnic area, Katherine Gorge and 17 Mile Valley.

The Lookout and Loop walks have varying conditions, but are mainly a short, steep track with an average level of fitness required and are graded as moderate difficulty, so choose a walk to suit your level of fitness.









#### **ABOUT THE JAWOYN**

Jawovn is recognised among Aboriginal peoples over a large area of the Northern Territory's 'Top End'. It is an all-encompassing expression used in reference to language, culture, people and territory including 17 clans making up the group.

#### **HISTORY**

Nitmiluk is the Jawoyn name for Katherine Gorge. It is pronounced Nit-me-look, and literally means Cicada Place. The name was given by Nabilil, an important figure of the Creation Time. As he travelled through the country, he came to the Gorge where he heard the song of the Cicada, "Nit, Nit, Nit!"

The Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park and Jawoyn Association logo is a painting by a deceased traditional owner of Nitmiluk. It depicts Bolung (the rainbow serpent), Nitmi (the cicada), mussels, fish and rocks. By tradition, Bolung still inhabits the deep pools of the second Gorge at Nitmiluk, and care must be taken not to disturb him.





tmiluk Accommodation options for every budget. Nitmiluk Cafe open daily for breakfast & lunch Jatti Poolsite Restaurant open daily for dinner. e nitmiluktours.com.au 1300 146 743



	J	AWOYN WORDS					
WORD	MEANING	NOTES ON PRONOUNCIATIONS					
Nitmi	Cicada	These letters are sounded different to					
Wak	Water	the English sounds					
Wurrk	Fire	rd, rt, rn, rl: all "r-rounded sounds					
Di rrt	Moon	made by holding the tongue in position					
Gu po	Kangaroo	for the ' $r$ ' (tongue tip bend back) while making – $a$ , $d$ , $t$ , $n$ or $l$ sound					
Garr -ak	Red Tail Black Cockatoo	j,tj, ny, ly: all "y-coloured" sounds made by holding the tongue in the					
Bur -dit	Bat	position for say 'y' (tongue tip down)					
Goy-marr	Freshwater Crocodile	while making a j, ti(-ch), n or l sound rr: this trilled 'r' sound is made by					
Gee-ngah	Saltwater Crocodile	flapping the tongue tip against the gum ridge behind the upper front teeth) like					
Jorrl-kkan	Dingo	saying a quick 'd' sound)					
Weerrk	Northern Bushtail Possum	<ul> <li>g: pronounced as in get (not George)</li> <li>ng: pronounced as in sing (not finger)</li> <li>r: Always pronounced, even at</li> </ul>					
Boh Boh	Goodbye	the end of words (like in American					

#### **MODERN DAY**

Today, Jawoyn invite you to visit their country and to share the experience and grandeur of Nitmiluk Gorge. Step back to a time long past when the mythical figure of 'Bula' travelled this land leaving his image as paintings in rock shelters - images that depict the stories of the Jawoyn people and can still be seen and admired today.

"Our people - the Jawoyn tribe - are the traditional owners of the area now known as Nitmiluk National Park. Since the coming of white people we have been able to keep alive our traditions and care for our country through our Law."

#### **BARRAMUNDI FUN FACTS!**

- Barramundi are called Martbiyn by the Jawoyn, meaning "large-scaled silver fish"
- Most are born male, then turn into females at 3-4vrs old
- Have been recorded over 1.2m long & weighing over 40kg
- Can produce upwards of 32million eggs in a season



## Nabilil Dreaming Sunset Dinner Tour

The jewel in the crown of the Nitmiluk experience

- Two gorge experience
- lour includes a three course me
- Glass of sparkling wine on arrival
- nitmiluktours.com.au

1300 146 743





#### **LELIYN (EDITH FALLS)**

Enjoy all year round, the refreshing water of Leliyn (Edith Falls). Picturesque waterfalls flowing into great swimming pools, with stunning walks throughout.



Located on the western side of Nitmiluk National Park, Leliyn is 60kms north of Katherine, as you travel further along the Stuart Highway.

Grassy campsites in bush settings make Leliyn a scenic spot where you can camp up for a few days or enjoy an afternoon, or day trip from Katherine, with gas BBQ's, picnic tables, toilets and showers, and a Kiosk for cool drinks and food.

Enjoy swimming in both upper and lower pools, or Sweetwater Pool if you are hiking or overnight adventure.

Leliyn is the finishing point of the 62km Jatbula Trail walking track, which begins at the Gorge end of Nitmiluk National Park.

#### UMBRAWARRA GORGE NATURE PARK

This stunning gorge offers striking colours of sharp red cliffs and sandstone overhangs. Best visited early to mid-Dry season, you can swim in the rocky pools, lined with sandy beaches. An easy 1km walk along the creek into the gorge or wade, swim or rock-hop along the way.



Look carefully and see the Wagaman Aboriginal art on the gorge walls.

The carpark of the gorge was the site of a tin mine in the early 1900's.

Located 3kms south of Pine Creek, this unsealed road can become very dusty and corrugated, with steep dips and creek crossings for 22kms.



## **PINE CREEK**

Pine Creek celebrates the gold rush that was stumbled upon during the 1870s construction of the Overland Telegraph Line.



Pine Creek Railway Scales

This is a quiet town to meander around enjoying the easy pace. With many historic buildings and markers, you will find a few lunch and accommodation options available.

Head to the Enterprise Mine Pit Lookout offering interpretive signage for a better insight or meander around this quiet town and it's easy pace. With many historic buildings and markers and a few lunch and accommodation options, why not stop for a day.

Pine Creek is the only original mining town remaining in the Top End from the gold rush era of the 1870s, and The National Trust Museum building is the oldest surviving prefabricated structure in the NT. Venture in to learn of the gold rush, local Chinese history and more.



**The Pine Creek Railway Precinct** narrates the story of this important transport for mining supplies. Pine Creek was one of four dispersal bases on the Northern Australia during WWII once the railway was extended to Katherine. The original Beyer Peacock locomotives are on display.

**Pine Creek Bakery** is a wonderful early example of both historical and architectural significance to the region, being a timber framed building clad in galvanised corrugated iron. The bakery includes a main store building, with a bush timber verandah.

**Bonrook Station Homestead** is another wonderful example of these buildings, so common in the NT from 1897 - 1937. With no ceiling or wall linings, the buildings were likened to being 'in an oven', but easily dismantled & moved. This one is over 100 years old.

Fossicking is popular in Pine Creek. Visit <u>www.minerals.nt.gov.au</u> for permit and details to try your luck!



## **TRAVEL WITH PETS**

Travelling with our furry or feathered friends allows all the family to enjoy a holiday! Being prepared is the key to ensure every member is kept safe

#### **KEEP A LOOK OUT!**

New to Australia, Ehrlichiosis is a dangerous dog disease, carried by brown ticks found across northern Australia. Left untreated, it can be fatal, so please use tick prevention to keep your dog safe.

#### TICK PREVENTION

- The first line of defence is a fresh tick collar. Note the date and change them as required. Most collars work best when kept dry.
- Regularly inspect your dog. Ticks hide in small crevices: inside ears, between toes and under their paws, between the pads.
- An internal tick medicine will kill any ticks living on your dog. One bite and they will drop off. Just be mindful that one bite from an infected tick can infect your dog!
- Ehrlichiosis cannot be passed simply from dog to dog, it spreads through ticks themselves. If you do find ticks on your dog, please visit a vet ASAP for treatment.

#### PET TRAVEL TIPS

- Carry your pet's medical info, including vaccination records.
- Ensure your pet is harnessed or crated for their own protection in the car.
- Carry extra water & bowls to allow for the heat.
- Remember heat affects their paws as well. Be mindful of hot ground!
- Take care when out bush, baits are used to protect stock in the NT.

RELLAMS PET RETREAT is a caring, family run, special place for your travel buddy. Offering kennels that are fully air conditioned with their own fully enclosed, private outdoor area. You can relax while touring the National Parks, knowing your special family member is being lovingly looked after. Open between 8am - 5pm, 7 days a week.





## RELLAMS PET RETREAT

- Day & Night
- Weekends & Holidays
- Dogs & Cats

15 Jaensch Road, Lansdowne

0456 596 740

rellamspetretreat@gmail.com • facebook.com/rellamspetretreat

#### SPOTTO!

#### **ARE YOU DRIVING TO NITMILUK (KATHERINE) GORGE?**

Get the whole family to look out for these fun points of interest, while you are heading out to Nitmiluk Gorge or back. 5 points for each box you can tick below. Add another 5 points if you are the first to see the image below and call "Spotto"!



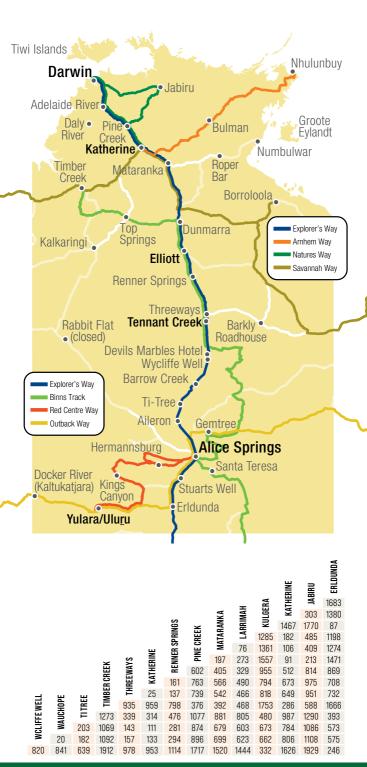
## **FIND THE WONDER WORD!**

Find every word in the list in order for the WONDERWORD to appear

Ε	L	F	Α	L	L	S	P	Р	М
S	Е	Е	G	R	0	G	1	Е	Α
Α	L	Т	х	Р	N	R	N	L	Т
D	1	Α	L	1	Т	1	Ε	1	Α
Α	Υ	В	Р	R	R	R	С	D	R
С	N	М	Р	Ε	Ε	R	Α	0	Α
Т	Α	Α	н	N	E	V	0	С	N
С	R	Т	U	Ε	R	Е	T	0	К
К	Α	S	К	М	ı	W	S	R	Α
К	U	L	1	М	Т	1	N	С	R

Crocodile Mataranka Nitmiluk Gorge Bat Leliyn Sun Track Katherine Pine Creek Cicadas River Falls Park

Swim Camping Trip



## TOURIST DRIVES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

These iconic drives showcase an ancient culture and the natural diversity of this spectacular Territory. Follow these 'self-drive' options and when you share your memories on social media include: #ExploreKatherine #ExploreOz so we can join your journey!

#### **NATURES WAY**

#### northernterritory.com/drive/natures-way

Darwin is your starting point, for a journey that reaches the ancient wonders of 3 National Parks, including Kakadu, Nitmiluk and Litchfield National Parks. All with their natural beauty, you can spot crocodiles along the banks of the river as you take a tour cruise along lily pad wetland, rich in bird life and stunning photo opportunities. Explore the rock art galleries, gentle and adventurous walking trails and plunge pools for cooling dips, before taking the loop back to Darwin.

#### SAVANNAH WAY

#### northernterritory.com/drive/savannah-way

This incredible 3700 kilometre drive traverses rugged and challenging country, from Queensland to the beauty of the Northern Territory, then journey onto Western Australia for an ultimate outback road trip. Passing through a variety of habitats, from savannah to tropical landscapes, journey through five World Heritage listed areas and 15 National parks. Camp out under big night skies, and marvel at ancient rock art or catch a famous Barramundi.

#### **EXPLORERS WAY**

#### tinyurl.com/2p95bs5m

Follow in explorer John McDouall Stuart's footsteps on a trail he first blazed in the 1860s, on a 3000km drive. Pass through diverse landscapes and some of Australia most famous icons, explore the rich Indigenous culture on sealed highways between Adelaide and Darwin.

#### ARNHEM WAY

#### northernterritory.com/drive/arnhem-way

From Katherine to Nhulunbuy, on the Gove Peninsula, you need to be prepared for adventure. Explore one of Australia's last unspoilt areas, with pristine beaches and stunning wetlands. You may be lucky to discover rare birds and native wildlife or catch a variety of fish along the way. Be delighted by local artwork in these remote regions, strong in culture.

\*A permit is required from the Northern Land Council and necessary to preserve the culture and beauty of the region.

DICTABLE

Natio	nal pa	rks. C	amp o	ut und	er			85		DISTANCE		
oig night skies, and marvel at ancient rock art or catch a amous Barramundi.					r catch a			ADELAIDE RIVER	ADELAIDE	GRID Measured in kilometres Approximate distances only		
					38			A	2911	ADELAIDE RIVER		
					BARROW CREEK	BARKLY HOMESTEAD	ALICE SPRINGS	1384	1531	ALICE SPRINGS		
			DALY WATERS	볼	8	8	719	1038	2249	BARKLY HOMESTEAD		
			M	BROOME		456	286	1098	1833	BARROW CREEK		
	Ϋ́	Z	Ξ	뚭	2451	2432	2737	1759	4266	BROOME		
	AR.	DARWIN	^	1829	627	605	914	476	2443	DALY WATERS		
⊨	DUNMARRA	2	589	1872	1211	1190	1497	113	3027	DARWIN		
ELLIOTT	呂	631	48	1872	580	556	866	518	2396	DUNMARRA		
ᆸ	104	736	152	1976	475	456	762	623	2292	ELLIOTT		
961	1065	1696	1113	2937	491	919	200	1584	1331	ERLDUNDA		
722	618	255	576	1858	1198	1138	1484	299	3014	JABIRU		
420	315	316	273	1556	895	875	1181	203	2711	KATHERINE		
1047	1152	1783	1199	3023	572	1005	286	1670	1268	KULGERA		
237	133	498	90	1739	712	653	999	385	2529	LARRIMAH		
313	209	422	167	1663	768	729	1075	309	2605	MATARANKA		
510	406	226	363	1646	985	965	1271	113	2801	PINE CREEK		
92	196	828	244	2068	383	371	678	704	2199	RENNER SPRINGS		
253	358	989	405	1801	222	211	508	876	2038	KATHERINE		
229	333	964	381	2205	246	219	533	852	2063	THREEWAYS		
706	601	601	559	1270	1181	1159	1467	489	1997	TIMBER CREEK		
568	672	1303	719	2543	93	566	194	1190	1724	TITREE		
366	466	1100	515	2342	88	363	397	985	1925	WAUCHOPE		
386	490	1121	538	2362	89	344	376	1009	1906	WYCLIFFE WELL		
1207	1311	1942	1359	3183	731	1164	446	1829	1576	YULARA		



#### 10 DAYS **KATHERINE**



#### **DAYS 1-3**

- Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge
- Spotto along the way!

#### DAY 4

- Mimi Art Gallery
- Street Art collection
- Katherine Helicopters flight adventure



#### DAY 5

Cutta Cutta Caves
Nature Park

#### DAY 6 I

- Katherine Museum & Heritage Trail
- Katherine Hot Springs

#### DAY 7

- Shopping, stock up
- Katherine Camping & Fishing

  Low Level Nature Reserve

#### DAY 8

- Aquatic Centre fun
- Café relax day

#### **DAY 9**

Fishing

#### **DAY 10**

Leliyn (Edith Falls)



# SUGGESTED ITINERARIES FOR THE REGION

#### 3 DAYS **MATARANKA**

#### DAY 1

- Never Never Museum & Park display
  - Bitter Springs Thermal Pools



#### DAY 2

- Mataranka Thermal Pools
- The Elsey Homestead Replica



#### **ΣΥΔ**(

- Elsey National Park highlights
- Old Elsey Cemetery
- Bush Walks
- Fishing

#### 2 DAYS PINE CREEK

#### DAY 1

- Enterprise Mine Pit Lookout
- The National Trust Museum
- Historic buildings & displays
- Railway history



#### DAY 2

Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park



