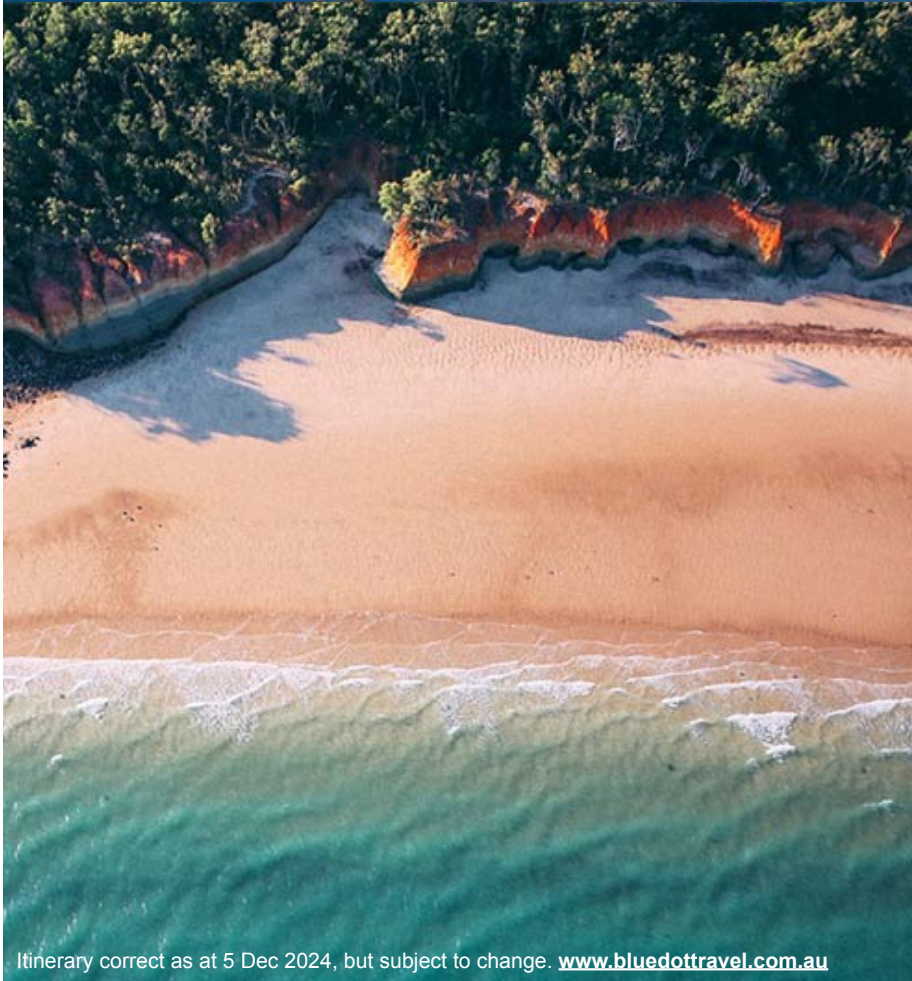




# Kakadu, Arnhem Land and the Tiwi Islands

Departs 3rd July 2025

Blue Dot Travel





**\$8,780 pp\***

Twin-share

Flights to and from  
Darwin not included

Single supp \$1,975



## KAKADU, ARNHEM LAND AND THE TIWI ISLANDS

The Northern Territory's Top End is a world apart from the rest of Australia. The landscapes are vast and awe-inspiring, the wildlife is prolific and the indigenous soul of the area is unmistakable. There is something intangible about the way travel feels in this remote part of the country.

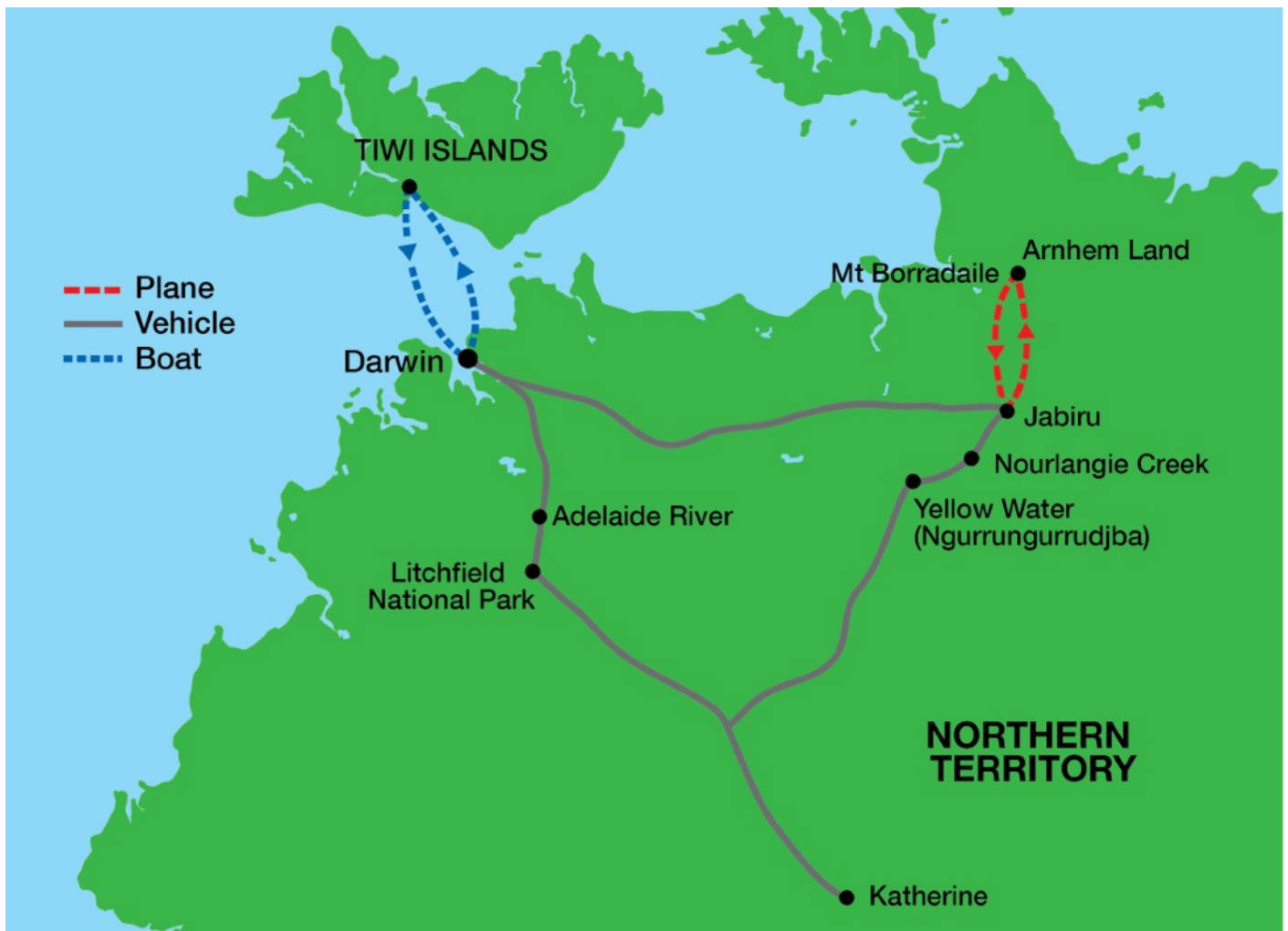
Our Top End tour allows you to experience the best the region has to offer. We launch off in Darwin, Australia's Northernmost capital, and travel to Katherine, known for its spectacular gorges and rock formations which shift colour in the changing light. We visit the spectacular Litchfield National Park and iconic Kakadu National Park, World Heritage-listed as both a cultural and natural sanctuary. In these stunning natural settings, you will certainly get the feeling that human beings are secondary to all the wild beauty.

Beyond the grand landscapes, the heart and soul of the Top End is the indigenous population that calls it home. Arnhem Land is a remote slice of Australian wilderness and an Aboriginal homeland of great spiritual power. Visitor access is limited, and we provide a special opportunity to stay on the Amurdak people's land, learning about their traditions and ancient art "galleries". The Tiwi Islands, often referred to as the islands of smiles, are also home to a unique indigenous community known for their traditional lifestyle, stunning artworks and vibrant fabrics. Whilst most travellers visit Bathurst Island on a scheduled tour from Darwin, we will travel further to Melville island on a private journey for an intimate experience of island culture.

For those who want to truly immerse themselves, an extended stay on the remote North Coast of Bathurst Island is available as an extension.

**\*Note: The tour cost is based on a minimum of 8 travellers due to the private charter flights. If fewer than 8 travellers join the tour, we reserve the right to increase the tour cost and advise you well in advance of departure.**





#### Day 1, Thursday 3rd July Darwin

Welcome to Darwin, a former frontier outpost and the gateway to Kakadu National Park. You'll be met at Darwin airport at 2 pm for your transfer to the hotel. For those arriving earlier or later, it's an easy taxi ride to the hotel. Your afternoon is free to relax and enjoy Australia's northernmost capital's laid-back, tropical atmosphere. This evening, meet your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner and drink on the Darwin Waterfront, a walk from the hotel. Accommodation at Vibe Hotel (or similar). **D**



#### Day 2, Friday 4th July Tiwi Islands

An early start this morning. We'll be picked up and transferred to Cullen Bay Ferry Terminal before boarding our boat to the Tiwi Islands. The people on Tiwi Islands are famous

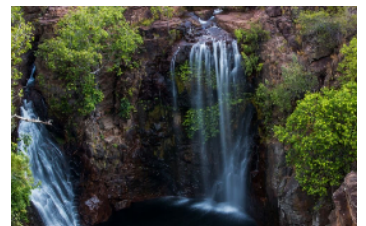
for their traditional lifestyle, stunning artworks, vibrant fabrics and engaging community, earning them the nickname 'Island of Smiles'. On arrival at Milikapiti (Snake Bay) we will first visit the Jilamara Art Centre, a cultural hub for the Milikapiti community, and home to a stunning array of artwork. Established in 1989, Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association is owned and governed by Tiwi artists from Milikapiti community on Melville Island. A place to teach our young ones culture to keep it strong. We'll continue to Pirlangimpi (Garden Point), a small community of just 450 people on the island's western side. Due to its remoteness, the islands receive few visitors, and the tight-knit community welcome us. After lunch, we visit the Munupi Art Centre to appreciate the progressive, modern-

day community of Wurrumiyanga with its proud locals. After that, on to the Patakijiyali Museum at Wurrumiyanga, established in the early 2000s by Sister Anne Gardiner to preserve the island's precious history, language and culture. We will also stop in at the Tiwi-style Catholic church. Return to Darwin late in the afternoon. Dinner is at your leisure (own cost). Overnight at Vibe Hotel. **B/L**



#### Day 3, Saturday 5th July Litchfield National Park

After breakfast, we'll be picked up for our day trip to Litchfield National Park. We'll visit the spectacular twin torrents of Florence Falls and the sparkling cascade of Tolmer Falls, each surrounded by vine gullies and rainforests. Wangi Falls, the largest of all, offers the opportunity to soak in our surroundings amongst pandanus-fringed pools so bring your swimming gear! Afterwards, we'll enjoy a barbecue lunch amidst the park's bushland. Litchfield is the best place to view the termite mounds that the Northern Territory is known for. These intelligently designed structures, many standing over 2 metres tall, have arches, tunnels and even chimneys. Look out for the Cathedral Termite Mounds, with some standing at an impressive 4 metres in height. Back to Darwin late afternoon. Your evening is at leisure. Overnight at Vibe Hotel (or similar). **B/L**



#### Day 4, Sunday 6th July Darwin City Tour

Today enjoy a Darwin city private tour. We'll visit the NT Museum and Art Gallery, the Darwin Aviation Museum and the



Botanic Gardens. Lunch will be at the gallery. Darwin is a city with an engaging modern history. Hear about the devastating effects of Cyclone Tracy which destroyed over 70% of the city. Its unique and tragic past and the subsequent reconstruction of the city have led Darwin to being one of Australia's most modern and multicultural cities. We'll visit historic sites and learn about pre-war Darwin and how WWII shaped Darwin as a city. The evening and dinner are at your leisure. Darwin has developed a great reputation for excellent dining options due to its proximity to Southeast Asia. Head out to try some fresh BBQ seafood, and authentic Indian, Chinese, or south-east Asian cuisine. Mindil Beach Sunset Market operates from 4 pm on Sundays and is the perfect place to grab a bite. The sunset market precinct truly epitomises the cultural melting pot of the city. Located along the foreshore of Mindil Beach, it is also a great vantage point to watch the sun setting over the Timor Sea. Overnight at Vibe Hotel (or similar). **B/L**



#### Day 5, Monday 7th July Darwin — Kakadu

Today we depart for Kakadu. World Heritage-listed as both a cultural and natural sanctuary, Kakadu National Park is an Australian icon. This

morning we'll visit Nourlangie to see its fascinating Aboriginal rock art and hear a detailed interpretation as we explore the various outdoor 'galleries' with art that dates back some 20,000 years. We'll continue our journey towards Katherine and the Nitmiluk National Park, stopping en route at the gorgeous Edith Falls with a buffet lunch at Cooina Lodge. We embark on the famous Ngurrungurrudjba (Yellow Waters) billabong cruise in the afternoon. We'll see many different bird species, spot estuarine crocodiles and enjoy the beauty of the wetlands. After the cruise, a visit to the Warradja Cultural Centre. Late afternoon, check in to Mercure Crocodile Hotel, where we stay for one night. Dinner is at the hotel. **B/L/D**



#### Day 6, Tuesday 8th July Flight to Arnhem Land

This morning we'll fly from Jabiru Airport to Mt Borradaile, the gateway to Arnhem Land, Australia's last wilderness area and an Aboriginal homeland of great spiritual power. Pack a

soft bag with no more than 12-15 kg. Your remaining luggage will be stored ready for your return to Kakadu before departing for Katherine. On arrival at Mt Borradaile, the safari lodge staff will meet our group at the landing strip. Arnhem Land is home to traditional landowners, the Yolngu people, and with limited visitor numbers, it is a truly special place to visit. We will be staying at Davidson's Arnhem Land Safaris which is owned and managed by its traditional custodians, the Amurdak people, whose inhabitation of the area dates back 50,000 years. The property sits on a landscape of rugged ranges fringed by idyllic billabongs, flood plains, paperbark swamps and monsoonal rainforest; an amazingly beautiful wilderness. After our welcome and orientation, we'll have lunch and an afternoon safari. Dinner will be at the lodge, in the main dining room, the social hub and a great place to relax and socialise. **B/L/D**



#### Day 7, Wednesday 9th July Arnhem Land Safari Lodge

Arnhem Land is a living classroom where every creature, from the tiny termite to the mighty crocodile, has a lesson to teach

us. This morning we'll discover galleries of aboriginal rock art that show stories from more recent times of aboriginal contact with other cultures, alongside our local guide. We'll return to the lodge for lunch and to relax by the pool, before heading out again in the afternoon. We'll visit another culturally significant site to learn about the variety of techniques used in rock paintings, with the styles changing over the thousands of years of occupation and storytelling. We'll end the day with a cruise on the billabong, watching the sunset over the floodplain, and enjoy the colours of the landscape, with wine and nibbles. **B/L/D**



#### Day 8, Thursday 10th July Arnhem Land — Katherine

After breakfast depart Mt Borradaile by air, returning to Kakadu to continue our tour of Kakadu. Before leaving Kakadu National Park we will head to Ubirr to view the Rock Art and enjoy a guided walk. Depart Ubirr and stop off in Jabiru for lunch before departing Kakadu National Park and the journey to Katherine. Lunch is at the Mercure Kakadu. Depart for Katherine arriving late afternoon at Cicada Lodge. In this stunning architect-designed eco-lodge, each room has a private balcony that opens to the glories of Nitmiluk National Park. Cool off from the day's heat with a swim in the pool as the sun sets. Dinner at the lodge. **B/L/D**



#### Day 9, Friday 11th July Katherine

This morning we'll meet Manual Pamkal who will welcome us with a traditional welcoming tune on the didgeridoo. Manual will share stories of growing up in the bush and teach us the fine art of rarrk painting using a special brush from a reed called Julk. Call up the inner artist within you and paint your piece to take home. After lunch at your leisure, there'll be time to relax and take in the stunning surroundings at Cicada Lodge before our sunset dinner cruise along Katherine River. With its abundant waterways, gorges and waterfalls, this region is where the outback meets the tropics. Marvel at the dramatic scenery and learn about the history and culture of the local Jawoyn people. Enjoy the peaceful ambience with a three-course dinner prepared onboard the boat. **B/D**



#### Day 10, Saturday 12th July Katherine — Darwin

This morning, depart for Darwin (about 3.5 hours). On our way, we'll visit the Adelaide River War Memorial. During WWII, Adelaide River was the headquarters to a large military base. A remarkable heritage-listed memorial cemetery was created especially for those who gave their lives in the service of their country. After, we'll begin our journey north on the Stuart Highway returning to Darwin. Our group airport transfer is scheduled to coincide with flights departing at 1.00 pm from Darwin Airport. It is an easy and short taxi ride to the airport for other flight departures. **B**



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.