

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Few destinations can match the majesty of the Northern Territory. In the Red Centre, iconic Uluru and Kata Tjuta will take your breath away, offering sunrise tours, star-lit dinners, and everything in between. The surrounding desert delivers the quintessential outback experience, with Aboriginal rock art, camel rides, and guided walks with local guides.

Capital city Darwin, 2,000 kilometres to the north, celebrates its multicultural heritage and tropical climate with relaxed restaurants and open-air markets. With close to 4,000 beds, conference facilities for 1,500 delegates, and flights from major Asian cities, it's an ideal base for larger groups. Less than two hours' drive away, Kakadu and the Litchfield National Park offer crocodile-spotting, wet-land tours and other uniquely Australian activities.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1

Begin your outback adventure at Uluru in the Red Centre. Check into Ayers Rock Resort, home to five individual hotels with more than 700 rooms, spanning luxury tents, five-star suites and self-catering apartments. Enjoy lunch at Ilkari Restaurant at Sails in the Desert Hotel, which showcases seafood, grilled meats and indigenous ingredients. Time your visit to coincide with Uluru Camel Cup in May, home to camel races, helicopter tours and a gala ball. For dinner, book an exclusive experience under the stars at Tali Wiru. Meaning 'beautiful dune' in the local Anangu language, this intimate meal for 20 begins with champagne and canapés around the fire pit, followed by a four-course dinner with Indigenous performances and storytelling.

DAY 2

Take a private Sunrise and Base Tour of Uluru, recharging with tea, coffee and biscuits as you watch the sun climb behind this 600-million-year-old monolith. Join a guided walk to the Mutitjula Waterhole, past rock art and sacred sites, then visit the Culture Centre to learn about local Aboriginal customs and buy original artworks. Return to Ayers Rock Resort for a light lunch in the Bunya Bar or Pirra Pool Bar, followed by a dot-painting workshop near the Town Square Lawn. Charter a helicopter flight over Uluru and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), available with multilingual commentary via iPods. Until March 2017, enjoy dinner surrounded by 50,000 illuminated glass spheres for a Night at Field of Light. The evening includes sparkling wine and canapés on arrival, a 'bush tucker' buffet dinner, didgeridoo performances and Aboriginal dance.

DAY 3

Fly from Ayers Rock (Uluru) Airport to capital city Darwin, then tour Paspaley Pearls, enjoying a glass of Australian sparkling wine while you learn about the five virtues of pearls during a private tutorial. Next, legendary local chef Jimmy Shu will host a cooking demonstration of modern Asian cuisine at Hanuman restaurant, followed by banquet lunch. For sunset drinks, hold a cocktail party at waterfront venue Pee Wees at the Point, a 10-minute drive from central Darwin. From the end of April until the end of October, enjoy a relaxed evening at Mindil Beach Sunset Markets. Browse the multicultural food and craft stalls, then share a VIP beach dinner for up to 400 guests.

ADD THE WOW FACTOR

Explore the Top End from the air, land and water. From Darwin, charter an Outback Floatplane Adventures tour through the mangroves of Sweets Lagoon, spy wildlife from an airboat, helicopter over rugged landscapes, and fish for barramundi on a Billabong Cruise.

DID YOU KNOW?

Uluru changes colour throughout the day. Experience its various shades from every angle with a pre-dawn camel tour, afternoon helicopter charter, sunset cocktail party and dinner in the desert.



EVENTS

FIELD OF LIGHT

From 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, 50,000 glass spheres will illuminate the desert near Ayers Rock Resort. Experience artist Bruce Munro's installation during an exclusive-hire dinner for 70-120 guests, or with a pre-dawn tour and buffet breakfast for 40-120 delegates.

CAMEL CUP

Watch the dust fly for the Uluru Camel Cup held in May. Form a syndicate with your team to take part in the Camel Cup Calcutta at the Outback Pioneer Hotel. On 28 May, experience the thrill of the Saturday races, and dress up for the Fashions on the Field competition. For the VIP treatment, arrange helicopter transfers to and from the venue.

DARWIN FESTIVAL

During this 18-day celebration of music, art and theatre, held in August, hire an exclusive function area at Festival Park for pre-show canapés and drinks, reserved seating for performances, and a dedicated festival host.

EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD

LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK

A 90-minute drive south of Darwin, Litchfield National Park is home to 1,500 square kilometres of monsoon forest. Florence Falls makes an ideal day trip, offering waterfalls, swimming holes, 4WD tracks, bushwalking trails and picnic facilities. Follow local Aboriginal guides as they share the history of the land.

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

The largest national park in Australia at 20,000 square kilometres, Kakadu is one hour and 40 minutes' drive east of Darwin. Aurora Kakadu in the heart of the wetlands offers 129 rooms and a function venue for up to 120 delegates. In Jabiru, the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel has 110 rooms and conference facilities. Join rock art walks, wetland cruises, scenic flights and culture tours with a traditional Aboriginal guide.

THE GHAN

Running from Darwin to Adelaide, the legendary Ghan railway covers 2,979 kilometres over four days. Extend your journey by stopping at Alice Springs and Coober Pedy for bespoke camel tours and Aboriginal cultural experiences.



The Ghan

WHAT'S NEW

The home of documentary series Kangaroo Dundee, the Kangaroo Sanctuary in Alice Springs is adding a camel enclosure, providing educational camel experiences as part of its guided sunset tours.

In Yulara, Uluru Camel Tours is expanding its entertainment area to cater for larger functions, including exclusive farm hire for barbecue dinners, cocktail parties, and bespoke campfire events.

Located 32 kilometres south of Alice Springs, Ooraminna Station Homestead has installed a new kitchen, now catering for up to 500 guests with outback barbecues and native ingredients.



Cullen Bay, Darwin

PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

ACCESS

The Northern Territory is serviced by airports in Darwin, Alice Springs and Uluru. Fly direct to Darwin from major Asian hubs, including Singapore and Malaysia, and from most Australian capital cities. A 20-minute drive from Uluru, the Ayers Rock Airport is a three to four-hour flight from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and other domestic centres.

ACCOMMODATION

Choose from close to 6,000 accommodation rooms across the Northern Territory, including hotels, resorts and lodges to suit all budgets, with over 4,000 beds in Darwin, over 1,330 in Alice Springs, and 690 at Uluru.

WEATHER

Darwin has a tropical climate. Average maximum temperature.

Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Temperature °C	32°	31°	32°	33°	32°	31°	31°	31°	33°	33°	33°	33°
Temperature °F	90°	88°	90°	91°	90°	88°	88°	88°	91°	91°	91°	91°

Alice Springs and Uluru have a desert climate. Average maximum temperature.

Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Temperature °C	36°	35°	33°	28°	23°	20°	20°	23°	27°	31°	34°	35°
Temperature °F	97°	95°	91°	82°	73°	68°	68°	73°	81°	88°	93°	95°

VENUE CAPACITY

The award-winning Uluru Meeting Place at Ayers Rock Resort can provide theatre-style seating for up to 420 people. In Alice Springs, the Convention Centre seats up to 1,200 delegates. The Darwin Convention Centre's auditorium houses up to 1,500 delegates. For tailored events, a range of hotels, resorts and wilderness lodges provide diverse open-air and indoor venues.

