

7 Day and 8 night Kakadu and Top End Photography Tour

Arrival day into Darwin (D)

Upon arrival into Darwin, please make your way to our accommodation at Lee Point.

An airport transfer will be provided at the most convenient time to suit the majority of the group. Those arriving outside this time, can either grab at taxi (at own expense) or I can see if the resort we're staying at can collect you- they have several airport transfer a day and I will let you know the times nearer the time when they have finalised their schedule.

The rest of the day is at your leisure- perhaps relax in the huge resort pool or take a walk.



This evening, as a group, we'll take the short drive to Lee Point , part of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve. It features 13 km of sandy beaches, dramatic cliffs and shady casuarina trees.

This evening we'll have our first group dinner. Your driver guide and tour escort will run through the itinerary with you for the next week and this is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers.

Overnight accommodation- Club Tropical Resort at Lee Point, Motel room with en- suite, TV,air-con, tea / coffee facilities, fridge and outdoor seating.

Touring Day 1 (B,L,D) - Sunday 23rd Sept

An early start today, departing the resort at 6.30am and heading south, onto the Arnhem Highway and into Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve. These wetlands have international significance because of their beauty and natural ecosystems. A variety of fauna may be found here throughout the year as well as a large variety of birdlife (230 bird species have been listed in this area by The Australian Bird Atlas).

As well as viewing the wetland birds as we drive across the dam wall, we also have the option of taking one of woodlands walks- either the 2.7k Monsoon Forest Walk or the 2.2km Woodlands to Waterlily Walk.

Along with wetlands birds, such as Brolga, Jabiru, Comb Crested Jacana, Sacred Kingfishers and Royal Spoonbills, we may also have the opportunity to see a range of other birds such as Crimson finches, Double Barred Finches, Rainbow Bee-Eaters and the Rainbow Pitta.

After a boxed breakfast, we continue along the Arnhem Highway to our accommodation at the Mary River Wilderness Retreat, where we'll have lunch and then there's some free time for you to explore the retreat. The park boasts a 3km of Mary River frontage and is sanctuary for both woodland and wetland flora and fauna. There are several walks you can take here.

Late this afternoon we'll take a PRIVATE 2 hour sunset cruise (just our group !) on Corroboree Billabong, part of the Mary River Wetlands, which is teeming with bird life. The wet season transforms the wetlands into an inland sea and replenishes the earth after the long dry and fish, crocodiles and birds breed and flourish. As the flood waters subside, the dry season offers excellent opportunities for viewing birds and wildlife. Keep an eye out for Saltwater crocodiles, Water Buffalo, Wallabies and of course, birdlife.



Species of birds that can be found in the Mary River region include Gouldian Finch, Rufous Owl, Grey Goshawk, Great- Billed Heron, Black Bittern, Rainbow Pitta, Brolga, Jabiru, Kingfishers, Darters, Cormorants and Sea Eagles.

Dinner this evening is served at the lodge restaurant.

Overnight accommodation- Mary River Wilderness Retreat- Bush Bungalow with en-suite, air-con, tea / coffee facilities, fridge and outdoor seating.

Touring Day 2 (B,L,D) - Monday 24th Sept

For the early risers, you may like to take a walk around the retreat grounds this morning, when the birds and wildlife are most active.

After breakfast, we make our way into World Heritage listed Kakadu National park. Kakadu is the largest national park in Australia, has some of the world's finest rock art and a variety of habitats, including floodplains and savannah woodlands.

Kakadu's many habitats support more than 280 species of birds, or about one-third of Australia's bird species. Some birds range over a number of habitats, but many are found in only one environment, including the Chestnut-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Banded Fruit-Dove, White- Lined Honeyeater and the White-throated Grasswren, which are only found within or near Kakadu National Park.

Our first stop today is the South Alligator Region. The entire river and it's catchment are contained and protected in Kakadu National Park. The beautiful Mamukala Wetlands can be viewed from the observation platform, where the mural depicts the seasonal changes throughout the year. Mamukala Wetlands are home to an array of wetland birds including thousands of Magpie Geese, Wandering and Whistling Ducks, Green-Pygmy Geese and Australian Pelicans. We may also see birds of prey, such as Black-breasted Buzzard and Square-tailed Kite.

After a quick stop at the Bowali Visitor Centre (a permit condition for Photography groups), we continue to the very north of the park and Ubirr. Here we walk through galleries of ancient aboriginal rock art, which your guide will interpret. At the end of the walk we reach the top of the plateau, where you can relax and enjoy the spectacular view over the floodplains and the Arnhemland escarpment. The escarpment is also home to a variety of birds including the Chestnut-Quilled Rock Pigeon, Banded Fruit- Dove, Whistling Kite, Bush Stone- Curlew as well as the short-eared rock wallaby.



This afternoon we are guests of the Bunitj Clan who are the traditional custodians of the Cannon Hill region, where tonight we'll stay at the Hawk Dreaming safari camp. This is an exclusive, indigenous owned camp located in a restricted and culturally significant area of Kakadu National Park.

After you settle in, you are treated to exclusive guided touring to nearby rock art sites and the red lily billabong to take in a spectacular sunset on the escarpment and over the wetlands while enjoying appetisers and cool drinks.

Overnight camp- Hawk Dreaming safari camp in safari tents with en-suites on Dinner, Bed and Breakfast (DBB) basis *There is no air-con here but tents are fly screened allowing the cool air into the tents and they also have ceiling fans.*

Touring Day 3 (B,L,D) - Tuesday 25th Sept

We depart Hawk Dreaming at approximately 9am this morning and continue our journey through Kakadu.

Our destination this morning is Nourlangie Rock, which is an ancient Aboriginal shelter. Here we explore the area and the rock art, which your guide will interpret for you. This area is home to the Black Wallaroo (endemic to the Nourlangie area), short-eared rock wallaby, Banded Fruit-Dove, White-Lined Honeyeater and the Chestnut-Quilled Rock Pigeon.

After lunch we make our way to our accommodation at Cooina, for a couple of hours rest (or you can take a wander around the garden grounds). There's time for an optional scenic flight (extra cost)

Optional scenic flight must be pre-booked. Last minute bookings can be made but there is no guarantee the flight will be available. It is recommended you pre-book with us so I can organise times to suit the tour itinerary and accommodate everyone as best we can.

However, all the information below is provided by the supplier and subject to change without notice. Sacred Earth Safaris is not responsible for the information provided below and any subsequent information provided to you regarding these flights.

Weight limit is 130 kg per person

2018 details : **Flights scheduled daily at 0800, 1300, 1500 and Sunset.** \$250 pp

Description: Flight departs from Cooina, which is located very near the Sth Alligator River and adjacent to the world acclaimed Yellow Water billabong, what you don't see from the ground is Yellow Water feeding into the tidal Sth Alligator River, and the amazing colour variations of many more floodplains as the river winds seaward. The flight also sees stunning permanent deep water billabongs and a good portion of the main Arnhem Land Wall, Nourlangie (Burengy) outlier, Mt Brockman and the Ranger Mine and Jabiru Town.

<https://www.kakaduai.com.au/dry-season-scenic-flights/>



Late this afternoon we depart for Angbangbang Billabong and Nawalandja lookout.

There is a loop walk you can take around Angbangbang Billabong to view the prolific birdlife and the short hike to Nawalandja lookout is rewarded by a magnificent view over the Arnhemland escarpment.

After dinner, you may like to take a wander around the lodge grounds, which are home to a variety of birds including owls.

Overnight accommodation in Kakadu- Kakadu Lodge Cooina, motel rooms with en-suites, TV, air-con, tea / coffee facilities, fridge and outdoor seating. The rooms are set in garden surrounds.

Touring Day 4 (B,L,D) - Wednesday 26th Sept

We start today on a PRIVATE sunrise Yellow Waters Billabong cruise for our group only. Located at the end of Jim Jim Creek, at least 60 bird species are found in these wetlands, the billabong is home to many saltwater crocodiles and you may see other wildlife such as Water Buffalo.

Back to the lodge for breakfast and check out and then we continue south to Maguk (Barramundi Gorge and waterfall), where we may see Rainbow Pitta and Shining Flycatchers. Termite mounds are abundant along the dirt road that takes us to the Maguk car park and from there, we take a walk through a paperbark forest and then along the pandanus lined creek to reach the gorge. Once we reach the gorge and waterfall, we can have a refreshing swim in the plungepool.

Departing Kakadu through the southern entrance, we now make our way to the historic town of Pine Creek and this evening's accommodation.



There is some free time to relax before dinner and I would recommend, late this afternoon, that you take a wander around the Pine Creek township (it's very small) to see if you can spot the rare Hooded Parrot, as Pine Creek is one of the best places in Australia to see them ! Other bird species that frequent the town are Rainbow Lorikeets, Blue Faced Honey Eaters and species of finch including the Blood Finch, Gouldian Finch, Masked Finch and Zebra Finch. The water gardens and park grounds (and railway museum for those interested !) are a very short walk from our hotel.

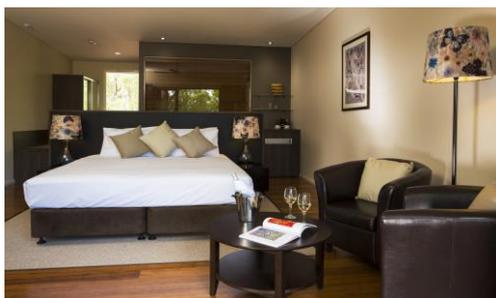
Overnight accommodation - Pine Creek Hotel, motel rooms with en-suites, TV, air-con, tea / coffee facilities and fridge.

Touring Day 5 (B,L,D) - Thursday 27th Sept

This morning we make our way to Umbrawarra Gorge, just south of Pine Creek. The dirt road in leads to a quiet, striking gorge, with sharp red cliffs and sandstone overhangs. As it's the end of the dry season, waterholes are drying up, so birds congregate in certain areas and it's a great time for bird watching and photography.

We continue south towards the township of Katherine and continue to our accommodation at Nitmiluk Gorge, home to 13 spectacular gorges, carved out of the rock by torrential summer rains, over millions of years. The campground and gorge area are home to a variety of birds and heaps of wallabies !

There's a couple of hours free time for you to take a walk to the gorge lookout, to the boat ramp, have a swim at the resort pool, enjoy the nature that surrounds the resort or simply relax in your room.



Late this afternoon you'll cruise for 2 hours through the gorge, discovering the customs of the traditional land owners, the Jawoyn people. Discover the stories and ways of the Jawoyn people against the magnificent backdrop of the Nitmiluk Gorge, changing colour with the setting sun. The tour includes a three course candle light dinner, featuring fresh, local Australian produce cooked on board, a complimentary glass of sparkling wine, tea and coffee.

Overnight accommodation at Nitmiluk Gorge- Cicada Lodge, with en-suite, air-con, TV, tea / coffee, fridge and full length louvered doors to private balconies- a great place to spot birds and enjoy the view.

Touring Day 6 (B,L,D) - Friday 28th Sept

This morning there's time for optional helicopters flights over Nitmiluk Gorge (extra cost as below).

Departing Nitmiluk Gorge, we now drive north again to Leilyn (Edith Falls), which is also part of Nitmiluk National Park. Leilyn is well known for it's picturesque waterfalls and pools, particularly the large pool at the base of the escarpment which is great for a swim. Birds seen in this area, including on the road to the falls, include Hooded Parrot, Gouldian, Long-Tailed and Masked Finches, Black-tailed Treecreeper and Golden-headed Cisticola.



We continue to Mt Bundy Station, which is our accommodation for this evening. The station has an interesting history and is set in a picturesque bush setting, attracting a multitude of wildlife- it's fantastic for photography.

Dinner tonight will be served at the Cheeky Bull Bar at Mt Bundy !

Overnight accommodation at Mt Bundy- rooms with air-con. There is a mix of double, twin and single rooms and bathrooms are shared (2 bathrooms per building- suggest 1 male and 1 female)

Optional helicopter flights are available as follows (must be pre-booked). Last minute bookings can be made but there is no guarantee your chosen flight will be available in the time available to us. It is recommended you pre-book with us so I can match up flyers for each flight and organise times to suit the tour itinerary and accommodate everyone as best we can.

However, all the information below is provided by the supplier and subject to change without notice. Sacred Earth Safaris is not responsible for the information provided below and any subsequent information provided to you regarding these flights.

Weight limit for helicopters is 136 kg per person

2018 details :

CANCELLATION POLICY -

- More than 48 hours prior to departure FULL REFUND
- Between 48 & 24 hours prior to departure 50% REFUND
- Less than 24 hours prior to departure NO REFUND

Helicopter – 3 seater...Fly with doors on or off. minimum 2 pax per chopper

Northern Rockhole Flight (8 minutes) - \$99 per person

Three Gorge Scenic Flight (10 minutes) - \$105 per person

Eight Gorge Scenic Flight (15 minutes) - \$170 per person

Thirteen Gorge Scenic Flight (20 minutes) - \$235 per person

Thirteen Gorge PLUS 17 Mile Valley (30 minutes) - \$315 per person

JAWOYN ROCK ART TOUR - \$535.00 per person- Allow 2 hours

Turn back the clock as you depart the Nitmiluk helipad. Destination: 40,000 years ago. Fly deep into the heart of the Dreamtime to an amazing Jawoyn art site. Your guide will assist you in interpreting the artwork and the secrets of this ancient land. Enjoy a refreshing dip in a rock pool before flying back over the rugged stone country and all 13 gorges on your return to the modern world.

There is a swim opportunity on this flight should guests wish to swim in a rock pool. Access is over a rocky path from the helicopter landing pad and is not suitable for those with mobility issues.

REMOTE UPGRADE \$40 per person- This option extends your tour a further 15 minutes and includes a remote landing above tranquil Lilly Ponds for a unique photo opportunity amongst the rocky country atop Nitmiluk Gorge. There is no other access to this spectacular and secluded location where you will feel a deep connection to the natural wonder that is Nitmiluk! Ensure you bring along a camera, sunscreen and sensible shoes. This remote landing upgrade is available on the eight, 13 and 13 gorge PLUS flights only.

<https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/book-a-tour/tour/helicopter-scenic-flights>

Touring Day 7 (B,L,D) - Saturday 29th Sept

We spend today exploring beautiful Litchfield National Park.

We have an early start to view the amazing magnetic and cathedral termite mounds and we can have a swim at Wangi Falls, Florence Falls and Buley Rockholes which are a series of small waterfalls that are a great place to simply sit and relax. There is also a lovely hike along the riverbank from Florence Falls to Buley Rockholes,



Mid- afternoon we depart Litchfield and begin our drive back to Darwin, arriving at approximately 6pm.

Our final meal together will be dinner served at our hotel, where we can reminisce over our adventures of the past 7 days !

Overnight accommodation in Darwin- Double Tree by Hilton Darwin- hotel room with en-suite, TV, air-con, tea / coffee and fridge.

Departure day from Darwin (B)

Please make your way to Darwin Airport for your onward flights. Taxis and an airport shuttle are available.

Alternatively, you may like to stay an additional night or 2 in Darwin and extra nights at the hotel can be booked on a B & B basis, through us for \$155 per person twin share and \$260 single.

END OF TOUR

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris, subject to availability road, weather and cultural conditions

Minimum 10, maximum 16 guests

AUD \$4925 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

\$810 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Inclusions:

- Sole use of 6WD tour coach, with air conditioning, tinted windows, reclining coach seats and speaker system with professional driver guide & escorted by a professional photographer
- All meals and some snacks
- Tour accommodation, as listed
- Pre and post tour accommodation in Darwin – 1 night pre tour and 1 night post tour
- Kakadu park entry ticket
- Private sunset Corroboree Billabong cruise
- Private sunrise Yellow Waters cruise
- Sunset dinner Nitmiluk Gorge cruise

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights
- Travel insurance
- Alcohol
- Airport transfers
- Extra optional Nitmiluk Gorge helicopter flight and Kakadu scenic flight (light aircraft)- please request the flights upon booking to avoid disappointment.