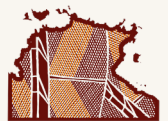




VENTURE NORTH

TRAVEL GUIDE



VENTURE NORTH

SAFARIS



Welcome

We're thrilled to have you join us for an unforgettable journey through some of Northern Australia's most remote and remarkable landscapes.

This guide is here to help you prepare, travel comfortably, and get the most out of your experience.

Inside, you'll find everything you need to know before and during your tour – including practical pre-departure information, what to expect while on tour, frequently asked questions, a packing checklist, and more.

We've designed this guide to answer common queries and offer helpful insights, so you feel confident and ready for the adventure ahead.



Hugh Gange

Owner



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PRETOUR INFO

DARWIN AIRPORT

Darwin International Airport is the main gateway to the Northern Territory and just a 15-minute drive from the city centre. It's a small, easy-to-navigate airport with domestic and international terminals located under one roof. Taxis, rideshare services, and shuttle buses are readily available outside the arrivals hall. For those arriving early or late, the airport has basic facilities including a café, convenience store, and luggage storage.

If you're arriving on a late flight or prefer to stay close to the airport, Novotel Darwin Airport and Mercure Darwin Airport Resort are great options. Located just 250–300 metres from the arrivals hall, both offer a free 24-hour shuttle service, making them an easy and stress-free overnight choice.

To find out more about the airport, click [here](#).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Whether you're planning the trip of a lifetime or a short escape to Northern Australia, we **highly recommend** taking out comprehensive travel insurance. It's the best way to protect yourself against unexpected disruptions or emergencies while travelling.

For example, if you miss a flight or fall ill and need to cancel your tour, you could risk losing part—or all—of your booking cost. Insurance helps ensure you're not left out of pocket in situations beyond your control.

Two commonly used providers are:

- **Cover-More Travel Insurance**
- **Aussie Travel Cover**

Please ensure your policy covers tour cancellations, medical emergencies, and remote travel.

DARWIN ACCOMMODATION

Most Venture North tours begin and end in Darwin, and with a wide range of excellent accommodation options available, there's something to suit every traveller.



Darwin gets busy during the dry season (June to August), so secure your accommodation early to avoid missing out!

We recommend staying in the CBD, Waterfront Precinct or Mindil Beach. All located close to key attractions, restaurants, and amenities.



Visit [Trip Advisor](#) for a full list of popular hotels in Darwin.



CBD

Darwin's city centre is a vibrant hub filled with trendy cafés, top-rated restaurants, and boutique shops. Explore Smith Street Mall, an outdoor pedestrian shopping strip known for Aboriginal art, tropical clothing and locally made jewellery. Accommodation here is plentiful, including hotels, boutique luxury stays and serviced apartments.



Waterfront Precinct

The Darwin Waterfront Precinct is still considered part of the CBD and offers a relaxed, resort-style atmosphere, with fantastic amenities. Cool off in the wave pool or lagoon, enjoy green parklands, or dine at one of 20+ cafés and restaurants. Stroll to Stokes Hill Wharf, a great departure point for a harbour cruise. Accommodation ranges from self-contained apartments to resort-style hotels.



Mindil Beach

Mindil Beach is one of Darwin's most iconic spots, best known for the vibrant Mindil Beach Sunset Markets held every Thursday and Sunday evening during the dry season (April to October). The [Casino](#) offers some of the best accommodation, with options ranging from standard hotel rooms to luxurious resort suites.

READING MATERIALS

An Intruder's Guide to East Arnhem Land

By: Andrew McMillan

Why Warriors Lie Down and Die

By: Richard Trudgen

Journey in Time: The 50,000 Year Story of the Australian Aboriginal Rock Art of Arnhem Land

By: George Chaloupka

ARNHEM LAND**Natural History Guide to Kakadu Australia**

By: Ian Morris, Steve Parish

Kakadu People

By: Sir Baldwin Spencer

Kakadu Man

By: Big Bill Neidjie

KAKADU**Forsaken Settlement: An illustrated history of the Settlement of Victoria, Port Essington, North Australia, 1838-1849**

By: Peter G. Spillett

The British in North Australia, 1939-1949

By: Derek Pugh

COBOURG**Native Plants of Northern Australia**

By: John Brock

Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

By: Graham Pizzey, Frank Knight

Tiwi Plants and Animals: Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Bathurst and Melville Islands, Northern Australia

FIELD GUIDES

42 DAYS PRIOR



To keep your booking confirmed, please ensure the remaining balance is **paid in full 42 days before** your tour departs.

You will find all payment details on your invoice.

Ensure that you have emailed Venture North with the following information:

- Names and ages (at time of travel) of all passengers
- Any dietary requirements or allergies
- Any medical conditions or needs
- Hotel pick-up address
- Nationality & Postcode
- Your contact number in Darwin
- Emergency contact



DARWIN ATTRACTIONS

			 QUICK TIPS
<u>Mindil Beach Sunset Market</u>	Thu & Sun evenings (Apr–Oct)	Mindil Beach	Arrive early for parking, stay for sunset
<u>Parap Village Markets</u>	Sat mornings	Parap	Famous for laksa, bring cash for small stalls
<u>Rapid Creek Markets</u>	Sun mornings	Rapid Creek	Best for fresh produce and tropical fruits
<u>Waterfront & Wave Lagoon</u>	Daily	Waterfront Precinct	Wave pool entry fee applies
<u>Stokes Hill Wharf</u>	Daily	Wharf Precinct	Best at sunset, casual dining options
<u>Crococaurus Cove</u>	Daily	CBD	Book “Cage of Death” in advance
<u>Museum & Art Gallery</u>	Daily	Fannie Bay	Free entry, allow 1–2 hours
<u>George Brown Botanic Gardens</u>	Daily	Gardens Rd	Free entry, shady walking paths
<u>Deckchair Cinema</u>	Apr–Nov evenings	Waterfront	Bring a picnic or buy food on site
<u>Darwin Military Museum</u>	Daily	East Point	Combine with a foreshore walk
<u>East Point Reserve</u>	Daily	East Point	Darwin’s largest park area, great for a picnic or walk
<u>Darwin Street Art Trail</u>	Daily	CBD	Free self-guided walk (maps online: here)
<u>Aquascene Fish Feeding</u>	Daily	Waterfront Precinct	Easy walk from the CBD, family friendly experience
<u>Darwin Harbour Cruise</u>	Daily, evenings	Waterfront Precinct	Stunning harbour views, delicious drinks, book early

DARWIN'S BEST RESTAURANTS

			
<u>Hanuman Restaurant</u>	Daily	Mitchell Street (CBD)	Southeast Asian flavours & fresh seafood
<u>Pee Wee's at the Point</u>	Tues-Sun	East Point Reserve, Fannie Bay	Modern Australian dining with waterfront views
<u>Alfonsino's</u>	Mon-Sat	Mitchell Street (CBD)	Seafood & Italian favourites
<u>Ella by Minoli</u>	Tues-Sat	West Lane (CBD)	Contemporary Sri Lankan cuisine
<u>Moorish Cafe</u>	Tues-Sat	Knuckey Street (CBD)	Tapas
<u>The Laksa House</u>	Wed-Sat	Stuart Park (near CBD)	Southeast Asian street food
<u>Chow!</u>	Daily	Darwin Waterfront Precinct	Vibrant Asian fusion cuisine
<u>The Precinct Tavern</u>	Daily	Darwin Waterfront Precinct	Modern pub dining with local beers

DARWIN BARS

			
<u>Darwin Sailing Club</u>	Daily	Fannie Bay	Fresh seafood and harbour views
<u>The Ski Club</u>	Wed–Sun	Fannie Bay	Classic pub meals with tropical views
<u>Trailer Boat Club</u>	Daily	Fannie Bay	Relaxed waterfront club atmosphere
<u>The Precinct Tavern</u>	Daily	Waterfront Precinct	Modern pub dining with local beers
<u>Beachfront Hotel</u>	Daily	Nightcliff	Beachside pub meals and local beers
<u>Beaver Brewery</u>	Thu–Fri	Coconut Grove	Small-batch craft beers, rotating food vans
<u>One Mile Brewery</u>	Thu–Sat	Winnellie	Local craft beers, family-friendly beer garden
<u>Stone House Wine Bar</u>	Wed–Sun	Mitchell Street	Cozy European-style wine bar with charcuterie
<u>Darwin Railway Club</u>	Daily	Parap	Very local vibe with live music and casual drinks
<u>The Trader Bar</u>	Thu–Sun	CBD	Leafy outdoor bar serving craft cocktails
<u>Shenanigans</u>	Daily	Mitchell Street	Lively Irish pub with hearty meals and live music

PACKING CHECKLIST

CLOTHING:

- ☐ Comfortable shorts
- ☐ T-Shirts, cotton shirts, singlets
- ☐ Long sleeve tops and trousers (for sun protection)
- ☐ Casual trousers or jeans (in case of mosquitoes in the afternoon)
- ☐ Something warmer for night time (if travelling between June to September)
- ☐ Sunhat
- ☐ Sunglasses (polarised are great)

We suggest clothing that is loose-fitting cotton or breathable

FOOTWEAR:

- ☐ Hiking boots or sturdy shoes (runners), depending on your capabilities
- ☐ Footwear that can get wet (reef shoes, sandals or thongs)
- ☐ Comfortable footwear for evenings (sandals or thongs)

HEALTH:

- ☐ Sunscreen and SPF lip balm
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Electrolytes
- ☐ Medications (that you require)
- ☐ 1L drink bottle

**Comprehensive off-road First Aid kits are on hand at all times*

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Small torch
- ☐ Swimming towel (bath towels are provided at all accommodations)
- ☐ Day pack
- ☐ Binoculars (for animal/bird watching)
- ☐ Reading material
- ☐ Alcohol - if your tour is BYO (check your tour inclusions on your itinerary)



ON TOUR INFO

PICK UP & DROP OFF

Your guide will collect you from your accommodation between **6:45am** and **7:00am** (unless alternative arrangements have been made).

Please ensure you are fully checked out and ready to go by **6:45am** so we can enjoy a smooth start to the day.

At the end of your tour, we'll return to Darwin between **6:00am** and **8:00pm** and drop you at your accommodation.

TOUR VEHICLES

Our tours operate in late-model **4WD Toyota Land Cruisers (200 Series)**.

Our vehicles feature leather interiors, air-conditioning across all rows, superior suspension and advanced safety systems – ensuring a smooth, comfortable journey with exceptional off-road capability.

Each vehicle is licensed for seven passengers, though we limit numbers to **six guests** to ensure extra space and comfort. Seating is arranged with one guest in the front, three in the middle and two in the rear.

On longer drives, the back seats can feel a little tighter (particularly for taller guests), so we make regular stops and rotate seats to keep everyone comfortable throughout the journey.

LUGGAGE

We recommend travelling with one suitcase of up to approximately **20kg**. If your itinerary includes light aircraft or helicopter transfers, please be aware that **strict weight limits may apply** (and a soft bag is preferred).



We suggest bringing a **small daypack** for easy access to your camera, sunscreen, water bottle and other personal items during the day.

If you're carrying more luggage than needed, most hotels can store excess bags for you while you're on tour.

OUR GUIDES

Our guiding team is a group of exceptional individuals who are highly trained, deeply knowledgeable and wholeheartedly dedicated to their craft.

We proudly regard them as the backbone of Venture North. Their expertise in local culture, country, wildlife and remote-area travel, combined with their focus on safety and guest wellbeing, is central to our reputation for delivering unforgettable journeys.

Along the way, they'll share stories, point out details you might otherwise miss, and make sure each person in the group feels looked after. And of course – they know how to have a good laugh and keep the experience enjoyable from start to finish.



FOOD

We take pride in serving fresh, wholesome breakfasts, lunches and dinners during your tour. Between meals, you'll find plenty of snacks on hand – from fruit and muesli bars to cheeses, dips and biscuits.

Please advise us of any **dietary requirements** at the time of booking; our team are happy to accommodate.

All vehicles are stocked with **cold drinking water, tea, coffee** and **juice**.



ALCOHOL ON TOUR

PRIVATE CHARTERS

Alcohol is fully inclusive.

5-DAY TOP END TOUR

Alcohol can be **purchased** with dinner at hotel accommodation.

5-DAY KAKADU, ARNHEM LAND & COBOURG TOUR

BYO alcohol (bring your own)

BOTTLESHOPS & PURCHASING ALCOHOL

On Sundays, only bottle shops with a drive-through are permitted to open due to NT liquor licensing laws. **Photo ID is required for all alcohol purchases.**

DRIVE-THROUGH:

The Cav Bottleshop & Wine Cellar

Location: 12 Cavenagh Street, Darwin CBD

Cellarbrations

Location: 105 Mitchell Street, Darwin CBD

WALK-IN:

Woolworths & Coles Liquor

Locations: Darwin CBD and major suburbs

Vintage Cellars

Location: 44 Cavenagh Street, Darwin CBD

PHONE RECEPTION

Because our tours explore remote and largely untouched regions, mobile phone reception is often **limited** and at times **unavailable entirely**. There is **no mobile coverage on the Cobourgh Peninsula**.

Reception is typically available in **Darwin, Batchelor, Katherine, Jabiru, Cooinda, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ramingining, Nhulunbuy and Beswick**.

Rest assured, **your guide carries a satellite phone for emergencies**, ensuring communication is available when needed.

CHARGING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Charging your devices is easy during the tour. Each vehicle has an inverter with a standard **Australian 240V outlet**, so you can keep phones, cameras and other electronics powered up on the go.

Cobourgh Coastal Camp also provides solar-powered charging facilities for your convenience.

SAFETY ON TOUR

Your safety and wellbeing are our highest priority. Our guides are trained, experienced professionals who hold current **first aid certifications** and are skilled in remote-area operations. Each guide also carries a **satellite phone** to ensure reliable communication in the event of an emergency.

All vehicles and boats are equipped with **first aid kits**, and our guides carry an additional personal first aid kit at all times. We also carry **extra drinking water** in both vehicles and boats to help guests stay hydrated throughout the day.

For guests travelling with **CPAP machines**, we ensure that suitable power is available at all included accommodation. If you require CPAP support, please let us know at the time of booking so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Crocodile safety is taken extremely seriously in the Top End. Our guides are highly trained in crocodile awareness and will provide clear safety briefings when visiting waterways and coastal areas. Guests must always follow guide instructions, remain within designated safe areas, and never approach the water's edge unless directed. These precautions allow everyone to safely enjoy the unique wildlife experiences this region is famous for.

Our modern 4WD fleet undergoes regular servicing and safety checks, and our guides carefully assess conditions each day to ensure all activities are conducted safely. By following your guide's instructions – especially around wildlife, water, and remote walking areas – you can relax knowing you're in safe hands.

WEATHER IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory experiences two distinct seasons: the **Wet** (November to April) and the **Dry** (May to October). As the names suggest, most rainfall occurs during the Wet, while the Dry season brings clear skies and very little rain.

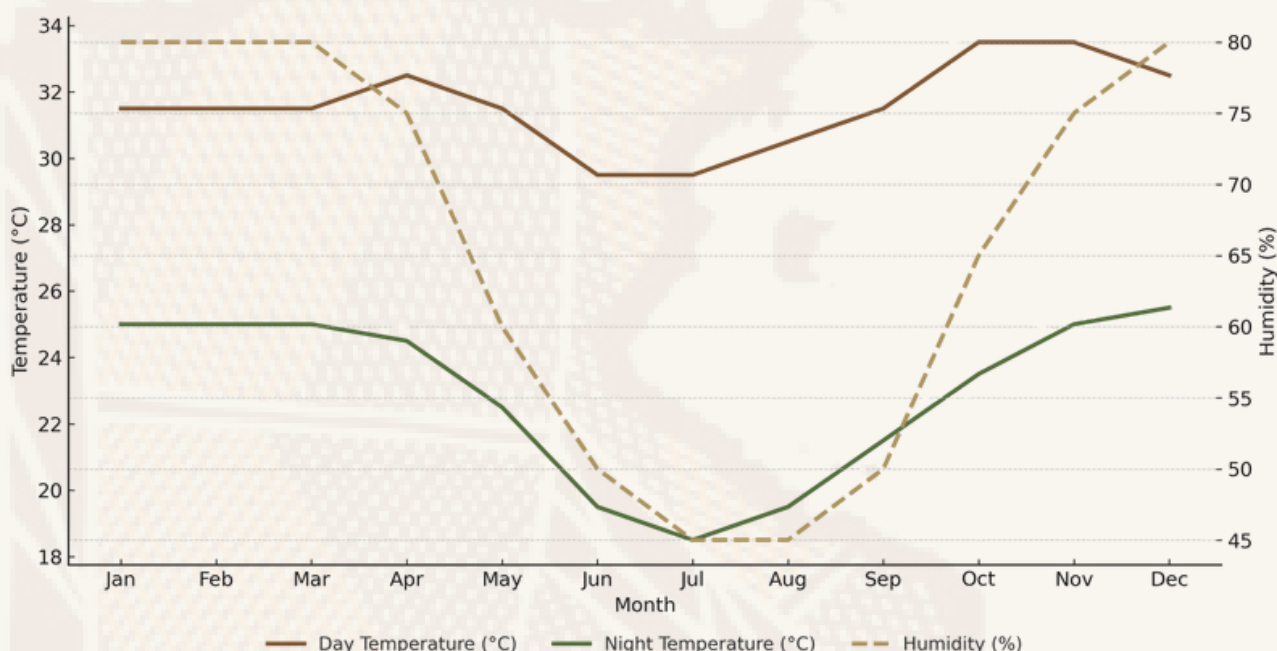
June, July, August and September are the coolest months of the year. Humidity is low, with daytime temperatures typically ranging between **28–33°C**, dropping to **15–20°C** at night (and occasionally as low as **5°C** in the Kimberley).

During **May, October and November**, conditions become warmer and more humid. Daytime temperatures usually sit between **30–35°C**, with nights ranging from **20–27°C**.

From **December to April**, humidity is at its highest. Rainfall is common and can arrive in short, heavy bursts. Daytime temperatures generally range from **30–35°C**, with nights between **23–28°C**.



TYPICAL TOP END CLIMATE OVERVIEW | BY MONTH



COBOURG COASTAL CAMP

ACCOMMODATION



Safari-style beachfront tents set on the edge of the Cobourg Peninsula. Each spacious tent features **comfortable beds, quality linen, towel, fans, lights** and thoughtful touches.

FACILITIES



The camp has private, comfortable outdoor shower and toilet facilities, both located outside with coastal views.

The **open-air dining area** is a relaxed, communal space where guests enjoy freshly prepared meals. The **Sunset Bar** is set in a prime beachfront position, the perfect spot to unwind with a drink and take in the spectacular evening sunsets over the water.



For more information about **Cobourg Coastal Camp**, click [HERE](#)





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q**How far is Kakadu from Darwin?****A**

Approximately **3 hours**. Most sites throughout Kakadu are quite spread out so a couple of hours driving here and there should be expected.

Q**How far is the Cobourg Peninsula from Darwin?****A**

The Cobourg Peninsula is approximately **570km** from Darwin. We usually travel by road over two days with sightseeing along the way. On the final day, we drive back to Darwin with touring stops en route, or you can choose to fly directly back to Darwin from Cobourg.

Q**Do I need to supply any bedding at Cobourg Coastal Camp?****A**

No, all linen and bedding is supplied, along with a **towel**.

Q**Should I bring alcohol with me on tour?****A**

Yes, if you would like alcohol during the tour, please purchase it before departure (unless staying at a hotel where you can buy drinks with dinner). We will keep it chilled on ice for the duration of your trip.

No, if you are on a Private Charter (all inclusive).

Q**What is the group size of your tours?****A**

The maximum group size is **6 passengers per 1 guide**.

Q What kind of fitness is required on your tours?**A**

For scheduled tours, we require tour guests to have a **reasonable level** of fitness and that you are **steady on your feet**. **Private Charters** can be tailored to suit your ability or fitness level.

Q Do you take children?**A**

Yes, we take children who are 6yo and older on our shared tours. We do not have any age restrictions on our private charters.

Q Who will my guide be?**A**

We carefully hand-pick our guides for each tour, matching their expertise and special interests to the destination and interests of our guests, whether that be cultural heritage, wildlife, fishing, birdwatching or photography.

You can find information about our guides on our website [HERE](#).

**You also will receive re-confirmation one week prior to your departure which includes who your guide will be.*

Q What are the luggage limits?**A**

Please limit your luggage to **20kg**, as space in the vehicle or trailer is limited. Strict weight limits apply for light aircraft or helicopter transfers and a soft bag is recommended.

We also recommend bringing a small backpack for essentials like your camera, sunscreen and water bottle.

Q I have special dietary needs - are you able to cater for me?**A**

Yes, we can cater for **ALL** dietary requirements.

In order to accommodate your requirements please advise at the time of booking.

Q Do you pick me up from my hotel?**A**

Yes, we pick up (and drop off) all our guests directly from their accommodation.



Q Will I have phone reception while on tour?

A

Phone reception is **often limited or unavailable** in remote areas. There is no reception on the Cobourg Peninsula. Coverage is usually available in Darwin, Batchelor, Katherine, Jabiru, Cooinda, Gunbalanya, Maningrida and Ramingining.

Q Can I recharge electronic devices while on tour?

A

Yes. You can recharge cameras, phones and other devices throughout the tour. Our vehicles have inverters with Australian 240V outlets, and solar power is available at Venture North's Cobourg Coastal Camp for charging.

Q What are the grades of walks?

A

For detailed information on the difficulty and grading of the tour walks, click [HERE](#)

Q Are there mosquitoes and sandflies on tour?

A

Yes, mosquitoes and sandflies can be present, particularly in coastal and wetland areas. We recommend bringing a good quality insect repellent and wearing long sleeves and trousers in the early morning and evening for added protection.

Q What is your cancellation policy?

A

Due to operating in a very seasonal market with very small group touring numbers we have a strict cancellation policy in place. Please be aware it is not flexible, and travel insurance is **STRONGLY** recommended to cover guests for any unforeseen events.

The below cancellation penalties apply (& relate to the entire value of the tour booked):

- 42 days (or more) prior to departure a 20% cancellation fee applies (i.e. deposit forfeited)
- 41 – 22 days prior to departure a 50% cancellation fee applies
- 21 days (or less) prior to departure a 100% cancellation fee applies.

