

# AUSTRALIA – NORTHERN TERRITORY

7 DAYS | GEOGRAPHY

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

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Northern Territory is the destination for this week-long, fully immersive lesson in the geography and aboriginal culture of a region which is steeped in natural abundance and human history. Students will delve deep into some of Australia's most iconic national parks, with time spent in Darwin, Kakadu, and Litchfield. Bush crafts skills will be sharpened, there will be close encounters with saltwater crocodiles, and days spent in close connection with aboriginal communities. This itinerary will explore how history, geography, science, and society interact in the real world. This tour is an off-grid, boots-on-the-ground experience which will challenge and inspire students and help them see the connections between man and nature.

1

### **DEPART AUSTRALIAN CITY – ARRIVE DARWIN**

Buffet dinner included

On arrival in Darwin we will meet our guide, a natural science specialist with huge local knowledge, who will be with us for the rest of the week. We will hit the ground running and set straight off on a whistle-stop tour of Darwin, discovering its long history from its pre-historic Indigenous past to its military history. A trip to the Bombing of Darwin Harbour Museum will shed light on the 19th February 1942. This evening we partake in a traditional Welcome to Country ceremony by a local Larrakia person and a group dinner as we all get excited about the adventures to come. Larrakia are an Aboriginal Australian people of the Northern Territory who have a close relationship with the ocean.

2

### **DARWIN – KAKADU NATIONAL PARK**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

We rise and shine early today and make our way in the dawn quiet to the Fogg Dam where breakfast and a chorus of birdsong awaits us. Students will get an immersive introduction to the varied ecosystems and wildlife of the Top End, as well as an understanding of the region’s significance for indigenous people, and is the perfect place to begin the journey of appreciating the historic connectedness between people, land, animals and spirituality. As we eat breakfast we will keep a look out for some of the 230 bird species that live here – two thirds of all those found in Australia - and if we’re lucky might even spot the resident freshwater crocodiles, buffalos or snakes.

After breakfast we continue to Bark Hut Inn, a historic building between the towns of Jabiru and Darwin, where the region’s rich pioneering history comes to life. Students will travel back in time to an era when buffalo and crocodile were hunted by early settlers. The afternoon stretches before us as we arrive in the ancient lands of Kakadu National Park and set off on a traditional indigenous Guluyambi Cruise on the wonderfully-named East Alligator River. As they float downstream students will get an insight into the local indigenous communities whilst being surrounded by the largest population of salties in the world.

Next enjoy a guided interpretive experience of the Ubirr Rock Art sequence, led by a custodian of the traditional stories. This experience culminates with sunset at Nadab lookout with views of the majestic Arnhem floodplains below.

It is an adventure-filled afternoon which ends with yet more nature immersion as we set up camp in the heart of Kakadu National Park.

3 & 4

### **KAKADU NATIONAL PARK**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

We have an action-packed couple of days ahead, and we wake with the birds in the early dawn. Our focus over these two days will be learning about the Aboriginal people’s culture and art, as well as their close connection to nature, and we do so through hands-on and immersive experiences. Students will be split into two groups, each taking part in a tailored

and unique adventure and switching the following day.

The Arnhem Land Experience will see students set off to visit isolated local communities deep in the vast wilderness of Arnhem Land. With the help of a local Indigenous guide and translator they will spend time with the community of Gunbalanya (Oenpelli) and gain an in depth appreciation of past and present life of the indigenous people in their landscape along with an insight into their culture through visits to significant art sites including the Injalak Art Centre.

The second adventure delves deeper into Kakadu National Park, where students will discover first-hand the diversity and uniqueness of a landscape which has been home to Indigenous people for over 60,000 years. They will cruise along the Yellow Waters looking out for local wildlife, and then explore the Nourlangie Rock art complex as part of a guided tour. To get a contrasting insight into the uses of the landscape, students will end the day with a tour of the mining township of Jabiru which has, until recently, serviced the controversial Ranger Uranium Mine.

5	<p><b>KAKADU NATIONAL PARK – LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK</b></p> <p>We say goodbye to Kakadu this morning and make our way to the spectacular and iconic Litchfield National Park where waterfalls, panoramic views and a unique selection of environmental conditions exist – including the famous termite mounds. Along the way we’ll stop at the historic townships of Pine Creek Batchelor and Adelaide River for a deeper insight into the lives of the people who live in the Northern Territory, as well as a moving and poignant visit to Adelaide River’s War Cemetery.</p> <p>Our afternoon in Litchfield will be action-packed, and students will get to practice navigation and first aid at the campsite as part of their increasing repertoire of bush craft skills. They will also have time to set off on walks to spectacular spots such as Bluey Rockhole and Florence Falls and their refreshing pools.</p>	<p>Breakfast, lunch and dinner included</p>
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**LITCHFILED NATIONAL PARK**

On our final full day students will get to use their arsenal of survival skills to navigate through the bush on a mission set by their guide. It will be a test of endurance, team work and navigation as they make their way through the rough outback – all under the supervision and guidance of the guide. The final afternoon will be spent at camp learning more bush craft skills, and this time it is the art of fire. Using ancient methods such as stones and sticks, students will learn about the importance of fire in history as well as practical, hands-on skills. On completion of your bush craft day, enjoy the spoils of your efforts with a much-earned dip in one of the region’s many waterfalls is a perfect end to a physical, exhilarating day.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

7

**DARWIN – AUSTRALIAN CITY**

After a final breakfast around the campfire, it is time to make our way back to Darwin in time for our return flights.

Breakfast included

#### PROGRAM INCLUSIONS:

- A return economy airfare with a premier carrier
- Accommodation in a 3 star hotel and camping in Kakadu and Litchfield NP
- Meals: Breakfast daily, 6 x lunches and 6 x dinners
- Expert local nature and science specialised guide for the entire journey
- Private coach for sightseeing program

#### 1 NIGHT DARWIN

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- Coach: Cairns airport – hotel
- Darwin introduction tour
- Welcome to Country Ceremony
- Coach: Darwin – Fogg Dam – Bark Hut Inn - Kakadu National Park

#### 3 NIGHTS KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

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- Guluyambi Cruise
- Guided interpretive experience of the Ubirr Rock Art Sequence
- Sunset at Nadab lookout
- Arnhem Land day experience
- Kakadu National Park experience
- Coach: Kakadu National Park – Adelaide River - Litchfield National Park
- Adelaide River War Cemetery

#### 2 NIGHTS LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK

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- Bush Craft skills (navigation and first aid procedures) workshop
- Bush Craft navigation workshop
- Bush Craft skills (fire) workshop
- Coach: Litchfield National Park – Darwin airport