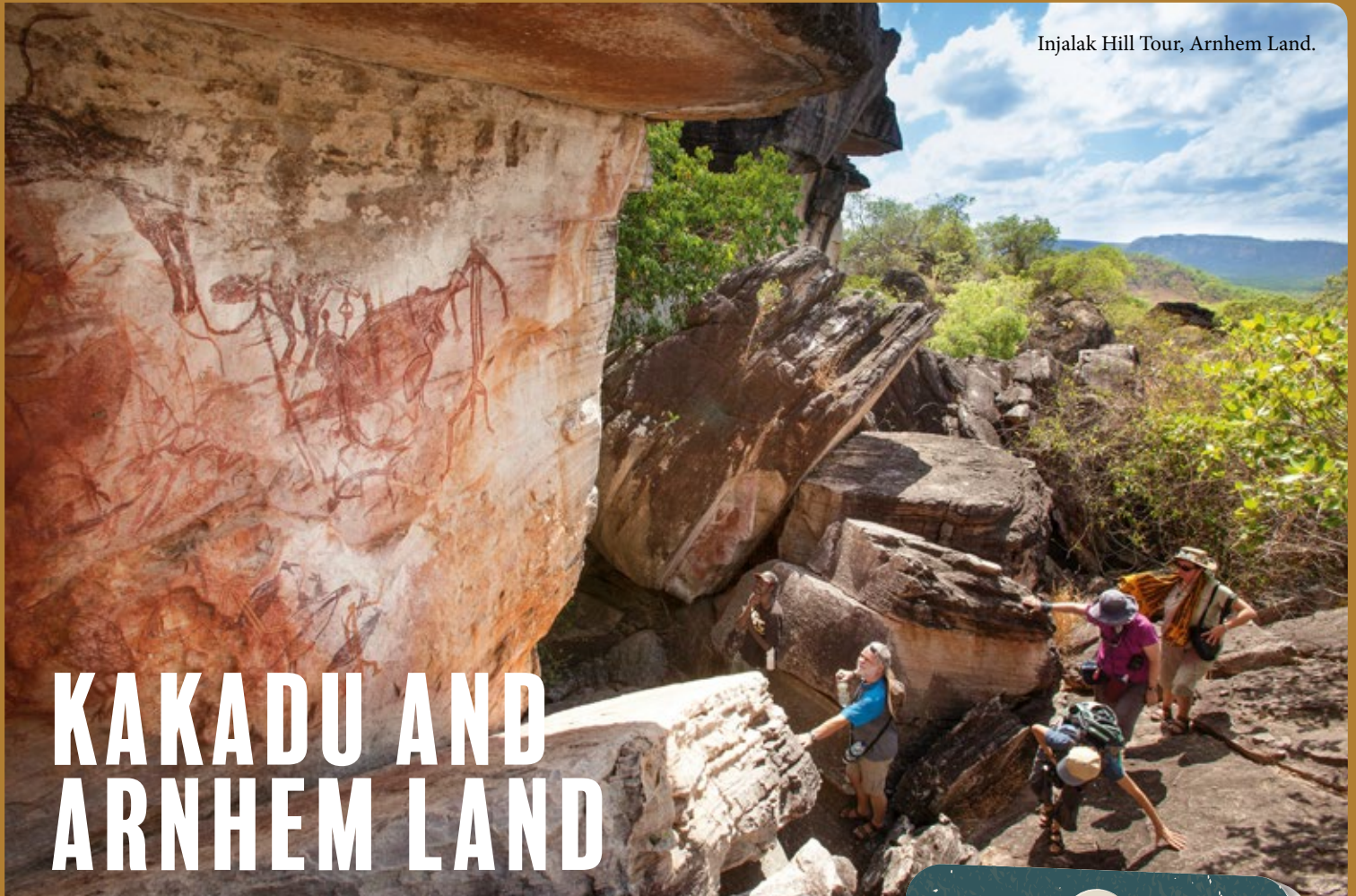


Kakadu and Arnhem Land



Injalak Hill Tour, Arnhem Land.

KAKADU AND ARNHEM LAND

SEE SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPES and experience the world's oldest living culture firsthand as we take you on a remote journey into the Northern Territory's Top End. Our exclusive itinerary provides travellers with an intimate glimpse into the lives of Aboriginal people and offers the opportunity to meet and interact on their home soil. You'll also experience some of the most picturesque scenery in Australia as we travel through Kakadu and off the beaten track into Arnhem Land. On this 4WD safari you'll be encouraged to really experience 'country' and go beyond just looking by smelling, listening, touching and even tasting things along the way. This will be a true, authentic Northern Territory experience.

BAGGAGE TAG

KAK · ARN

AG TRAVEL

DATES:
15-25 SEPTEMBER 2020
THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL DATES IN JUNE & SEPTEMBER. DETAILS TBC

EMAIL:
TRAVEL@AUSTRALIANGEOGRAPHIC.COM

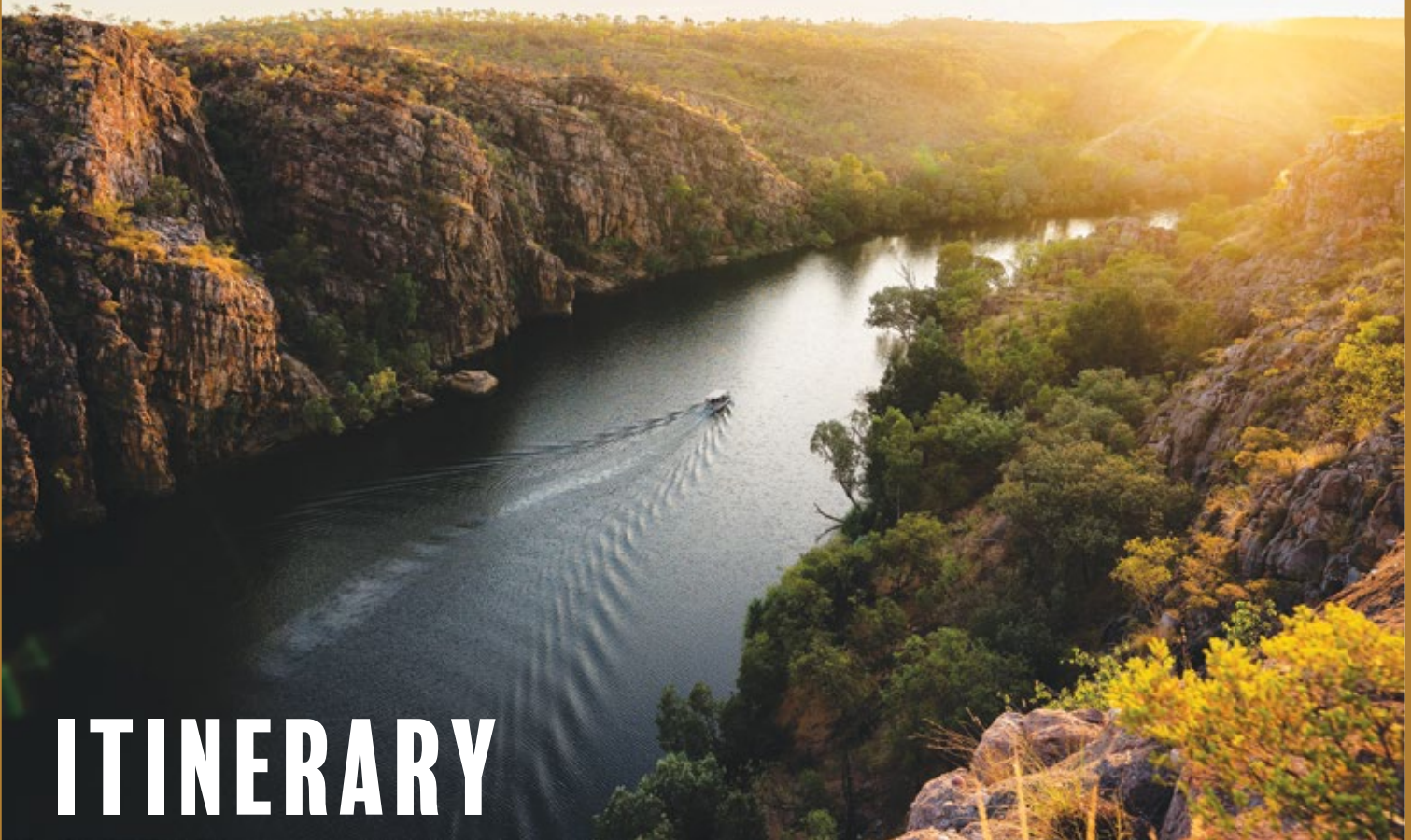
PHONE: 0413 560 210

ITINERARY →

PICTURE: TOURISM AUSTRALIA

Kakadu and Arnhem Land

The spectacular view from Baruwei Lookout into Katherine Gorge.



ITINERARY

Day 1 15 September
Arrival in Darwin
 (domestic airfare not included)

Make your way to the hotel, Vibe Hotel Waterfront or similar (transfers can be arranged at extra cost).

Day 2 16 September
Darwin–Wugularr
Continental-style breakfast

(Due to COVID-19, breakfast options may change depending on hotel restaurant hours)

Depart your Darwin accommodation at 7am for the beginning of your nine-day Top End safari. Our journey today takes us three hours south to Katherine and then another hour east to the Aboriginal community of Wugularr.

En route to Katherine our first stop this morning will be at Edith Falls in Nitmiluk National Park. The sandstone and riverine communities of Edith Falls provide a habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna. Here we'll embark on the 2.7km loop walk to the top of the falls, which offers great photography and swimming opportunities.

After a picnic lunch we'll travel into Katherine and stop at the Katherine Hot Springs for a quick dip.

We'll next travel to the southern edge of Arnhem Land to Wugularr (also known as Beswick), our home for the next two nights.

After reaching Wugularr we'll embark on a local history walk around the community billabong.

- △ Accommodation: Wugularr (cabins)
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

Day 3 17 September – Wugularr

After breakfast, we'll be joined by some of the local Jawoyn ladies and head out bush. Each trip is different and will depend on the time of year. One other common activity is to try to find some 'sugarbag', which is the honey from the native stingless bees, it's a favourite food out here and delicious!

Learn how to weave traditional baskets from pandanus and coloured with natural bush dyes. We will also do some more scenic touring including a visit to the local swimming hole and gorge.

In the late afternoon we will visit the community-run Ghunmarn Culture Centre and Gallery. Here, you can meet some of the local artists and view artwork made by people in the community.

- △ Accommodation: Wugularr (cabins)
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided



Local artists weaving traditional pandanus baskets.

ITINERARY CONT. →

Kakadu and Arnhem Land

Day 4 18 September
Wugularr–Katherine–Pine Creek

First up this morning we'll travel through Katherine and out to Katherine Gorge. Once there we'll collect some canoes for a leisurely morning exploring the gorge. Canoeing through this pristine wilderness area enables you to experience the gorge at its best. All canoeing trips begin with a scenic journey by boat through Nitmiluk's first gorge before canoeists take to the water to explore the second gorge and beyond. After a picnic lunch we'll continue our journey towards Kakadu National Park, en route staying overnight in the old gold-mining town of Pine Creek.

△ **Accommodation: Pine Creek Railway Resort (cabins)**
○ **Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

Day 5 19 September
Pine Creek–Kakadu National Park

After a full breakfast we'll make our way to the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park. Covering almost 20,000sq.km of exceptional natural beauty and unique biodiversity, Kakadu is one of very few places listed for both its cultural and natural values. Kakadu is home to the Bininj and Munguy Aboriginal peoples who have inhabited this area for thousands of years.

Our first stop in Kakadu will be Moline Rockhole, a special permit area that only a few select operators are permitted to access; guaranteeing minimal crowds. The small waterfall and waterhole below it are great for cooling off in. Your guide will give you goggles and a snorkel so you can explore the underwater world, home to a variety of species of fish and turtles.

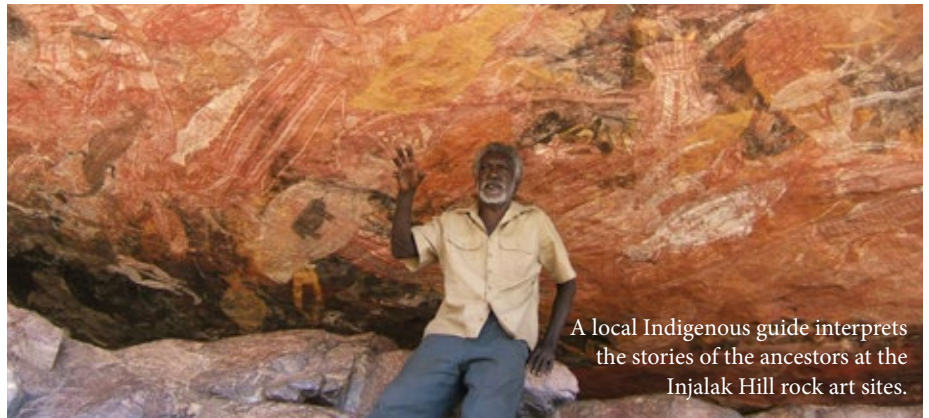
Our next destination is Gunlom Falls, another great swimming hole. For the more adventurous, a 20-minute climb to the rockpools above the falls leads to a naturally occurring infinity pool with sweeping views across the bushland of Kakadu.

We then continue north along the Kakadu Highway to our accommodation at Cooida.

△ **Accommodation: Cooida Lodge (safari tent)**
○ **Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

Day 6 20 September
Kakadu National Park

At dawn, after a full breakfast at the lodge, we'll join a 2-hour sunrise cruise on the



A local Indigenous guide interprets the stories of the ancestors at the Injalak Hill rock art sites.

A moderate climb takes us up into one of the most spectacular Aboriginal rock art sites in Australia.

famous Yellow Water Billabong. On this picturesque waterway you will have the opportunity to view a large variety of birdlife as well as saltwater crocodiles in their natural environment. Learn more about the wildlife on the billabong from your knowledgeable guides who will make the cruise both fascinating and informative.

Next, we will travel into Barramundi Gorge (also known as Maguk). Enjoy a scenic 1km walk along the edge of Barramundi Creek before arriving at the base of Barramundi Falls. Here you'll have the opportunity to swim or snorkel in the large plunge pool below the falls and discover an array of aquatic life.

We'll then continue further north to Nourlangie Rock, one of Kakadu's oldest Aboriginal occupation sights open to the public. Enjoy a walk around this impressive rock, through ancient rock-art sites and savannah bushland, which is home to a variety of wildlife.

Just down the road from Nourlangie is Nawurlandja Lookout. A short climb takes us up the sloping sandstone to provide views of the sun setting across Anbangbang Billabong, Nourlangie Rock and the Arnhem Land escarpment.

△ **Accommodation: Cooida Lodge (safari tent).**
○ **Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

Day 7 21 September
Kakadu National Park–Arnhem Land

Full breakfast at the lodge

Today we'll travel to Cahill's Crossing where the East Alligator River separates Kakadu

from Arnhem Land. Arnhem Land is comprised of vast amounts of Aboriginal-owned land (approximately 100,000sq.km) where many local people still practice their traditional ways. Access is strictly regulated through a permit system.

After crossing the river into Arnhem Land, a 15km scenic drive to Gunbalanya (also known as Oenpelli) Aboriginal community provides some of the best driving views in the Top End with floodplains covered in birdlife and water lilies running up alongside the Arnhem Land escarpment.

On reaching Gunbalanya our first stop is the Injalak Arts and Crafts Centre where you have the opportunity to meet and see traditional local artists in action. This art centre has a reputation for producing fine quality Aboriginal works with many displayed in galleries around Australia and overseas.

Next, we'll be joined by a local Aboriginal guide for a hike around the Injalak Hill rock art sites. A moderate climb takes us to one of the most spectacular Aboriginal rock art sites in Australia. It's here where we spend several hours exploring the many rock shelters that are covered in Aboriginal x-ray art dating back more than 20,000 years. We'll then continue our journey to the most northern tip of Arnhem Land; the Cobourg Peninsula, part of the Garig Gunak Barlu National Park. The drive takes about four hours.

Upon arriving we'll head straight to a private camp where you'll be served nibbles on the cliff top. Relax as the sun sets over Port Essington.

△ **Accommodation: Cobourg Coastal Camp (safari tent)**
○ **Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

ITINERARY CONT. →

Kakadu and Arnhem Land



Tour guide David McMahon at the ruins of Victoria Settlement.

Day 8 22 September 20
Arnhem Land

Awake to the sound of birds and enjoy a special 'Cobourg-style' cooked breakfast.

This morning will be spent exploring the Northern Territory's largest marine park by boat. Cobourg is abundant in some amazing marine life including six of the seven species of marine turtle, as well as manta rays, dolphins, sharks, crocodiles, mud crabs and plenty of fish.

As we cruise the marine park we'll stop to visit the Victoria Settlement ruins. Established before Darwin as a military outpost by the British, this site represents the third failed attempt at settlement in Northern Australia. After surviving for 11 years between 1838 and 1849 it was abandoned. Stone ruins still stand on the shoreline of Port Essington and serve as a reminder of the hardships faced by the early colonists.

Depart the settlement and try your luck at fishing. With more than 250 species of fish and over 2000sq.km of marine park to explore, this place is an idyllic fishing destination.

Return to camp late afternoon. Tonight, enjoy a freshly caught seafood dinner.

△ Accommodation:

Cobourg Coastal Camp (safari tent)

○ Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

Day 9 23 September - Arnhem Land

After another camp-style cooked breakfast, we explore the eastern side of the park, this time by 4WD.

Cobourg is home to the world's first Ramsar wetland (wetlands of international importance), and features freshwater paper-bark swamps and billabongs 100m from the

coastline. We will continue on via the northern beaches, commonly used as turtle nesting areas and covered in a wide range of shells. Low tide provides opportunities to explore exposed coral reefs and rockpools that are home to a variety of marine life.

After a picnic lunch you'll have an opportunity to go hunting for mud crabs using traditional Aboriginal methods. Learn how to hunt and gather these local delicacies before having a go yourself.

This afternoon we will also visit the 'grinding holes'. This cultural site is not open to the public, however we have been granted special permission to access. Here you'll see ancient grinding holes that have been created by Indigenous people grinding foods and ochres into the exposed rockface.

Once the sun goes down there'll be an opportunity to go spotlighting around camp to look for small mammals that call this area home.

△ Accommodation: Cobourg Coastal Camp (safari tent)

○ Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

Day 10 24 September
Arnhem Land-Darwin

After a cooked breakfast at the Coastal Camp and a relaxing morning at Cobourg we'll depart at 10am and travel to the local airstrip for your scenic charter flight back to Darwin.

Arrive into Darwin at approximately noon where you will be transferred to your hotel.

△ Accommodation: Vibe Hotel Waterfront or similar

○ Breakfast provided

Tour Guide

Professional driver/
guide from days 2-10

DAVID MCMAHON

DAVID HAS SHOWN his respect of and interest in Indigenous culture and has a great desire to learn, share cultural knowledge, and encourage development within communities. By spending time with Traditional Owners and respecting traditional protocol, David has gained acceptance and knowledge and been adopted into the system of kinship.

This has given him greater trust and the ability to access a depth of information to work closer with community members.

David is not only passionate about conservation of culture, but also of the land and environment, which are vital to the longevity of the tourism industry and community health and wellbeing.

During the wet season, when tours are less frequent, David increases his knowledge of local and international culture and wildlife. Some years, David has used these periods to work at a crocodile research facility in Darwin. He then uses this experience to educate the public about crocodile safety, breeding, farming and the ecological significance of apex predators. David also enjoys using this time to travel locally and internationally to learn about foreign cultures, natural environments and cuisine. While travelling, David has volunteered with National Parks and Wildlife Services on Christmas Island and been involved with wildlife rescue organisations internationally, further developing his understanding of global conservation concerns.

David themes his tours with conservation messages and encourages a respect and need for continued environmental safeguarding. He has represented Venture North at the premiere of Top End Sea Life documentary, *The Sea and Me*, where he was the guest speaker, talking to the audience about his experiences guiding in the Cobourg Marine Park and the benefits to the community of the protection of marine and terrestrial environments.



ITINERARY / COST. →

Kakadu and Arnhem Land



Spectacular sunsets are par for the course on this extraordinary Northern Territory adventure.

COST

\$5715/PERSON TWIN SHARE

Costs include the following services as per itinerary

- 10 nights' accommodation in specified cabins/lodges/tents/rooms
- Local professional driver/guide from days 2-10
- Sightseeing as per itinerary by private air-conditioned charter luxury Toyota Landcruiser, including purpose-built 4WD trailer and equipment
- Meals as per itinerary: 10 x breakfast, 8 x lunch and 8 x dinner
- Seat in boat cruises on regular scheduled departures:

Katherine Gorge Cruise through the first gorge, Kakadu National Park – 2-hour Yellow Water Lagoon Cruise

- Canoe hire at Nitmiluk Gorge
- Permit and admission fees where applicable, including Nitmiluk National Park, Kakadu National Park, Arnhem Land and Cobourg Peninsula, Arnhem Land royalties
- Charter flight Cobourg to Darwin (single engine)

Costs do not include

- Domestic or international airfares

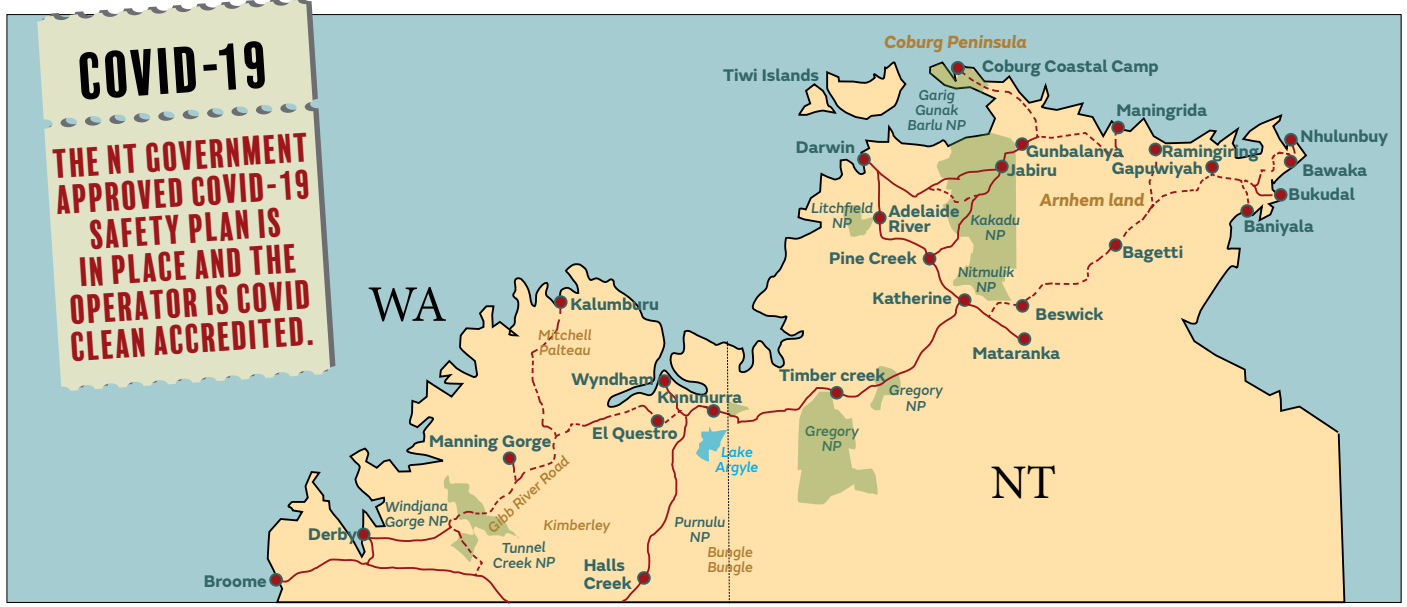
- Pre-registration, late check-out or day use at hotels other than specified above
- Guide services other than specified
- Meals/beverages other than specified, alcohol
- Tips and gratuities
- Optional tours/services

Other information

- All accommodation in twin share rooms/cabins/tents. Triple rooms are available
- **Beverages:** Alcoholic beverages are not included during lunches or dinners unless

otherwise specified. Beverages are to be purchased by the client. In some areas where alcohol restrictions apply, alcohol cannot be purchased or consumed. We suggest you purchase alcohol before departing Darwin.

- **Transport:** Luxury late-model Toyota Landcruiser 4WD (subject to change) – 6 pax max. per vehicle. We'll travel in two vehicles with max. 8 pax (4 pax in each vehicle). Purpose-built trailer and equipment.



COVID-19
THE NT GOVERNMENT APPROVED COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN IS IN PLACE AND THE OPERATOR IS COVID CLEAN ACCREDITED.

EMAIL: TRAVEL@AUSTRALIANGEOGRAPHIC.COM

PHONE: 0413 560 210