

Yolnu Homeland. East Arnhem Land. Northern Territory



ADVENTURE IN CULTURE WOMEN'S TOUR OF YOLNGY HOMELAND EAST ARNHEM LAND

THIS TOUR IS SUITABLE FOR FEMALE PARTICIPANTS ONLY

THE YOLŊU OFTEN say the land is their mother. It nurtures, heals and guides their lives. This is why the female visitor experience and connection to Yolŋu people is often so profound.

The Gay'wu women's tour provides female visitors with the opportunity to come together with their Yolŋu sisterhood and learn about their culture, history and country. Equally it is an opportunity to reconnect with every aspect of their own lives – environment, spirituality, and philosophy.

The dilly bag is a powerful and important cultural symbol in Arnhem Land, where it was first created thousands of years ago. Woven with dyed pandanus leaves, the dilly bag has both a practical and a spiritual meaning,

the practicality of holding foods and medicines gathered from the bush. The spiritual meaning of the dilly bag has given rise to the name of this tour, as it's also used to carry knowledge. The women of Arnhem Land wish to open their hearts to visitors and share the knowledge that have acquired over many thousands of years. Knowledge of the bush, the ancestors, the sky and the universe.

You will experience many extraordinary things on this tour, and time spent with the Yolŋu women is often described "life-changing".

You will learn about and experience Yolŋu philosophy and kinship, weaving, painting, astrology, healing ceremony, crying ceremony (Nathi), cooking and



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bush medicine, dancing, gathering oysters or mud crabs and much more. (Specific activities will vary according to the season and availability of materials.)

This 5 day / 4 night small group tour cultural experience departing Nhulunbuy.

This tour is for women and girls only. In the modern western world this could be seen as sexism, but in the Yolnu world there are clearly defined roles and activities undertaken exclusively by women and men. These roles have mutual respect, and many activities such as dancing and eating are undertaken together.

Depending on the Homeland visited, the tour may include a charter flight to remote homeland where you will be welcomed by the traditional owners followed by lunch and a return flight to Nhulunbuy.

At the end of your tour, you will visit the remarkable art centre in Yirrkala - Buku Larngguy here you will see beautiful works of art on barks, Larrakitj (ceremonial poles), weavings jewellery and much more. Buku also has an extraordinary collection of historical material and is regarded as one of the best Aboriginal Art centres in Australia.

Lirrwi Yolnu Tourism Aboriginal Corporation has been established



to develop, support and promote Indigenous tourism businesses in the East Arnhem Region of the Northern Territory. The Yolnu are widely regarded as the most culturally intact Aboriginal nation in Australia and as a result a major focus of tourism activity in the region is cultural awareness or immersion experiences.

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 27 May
Welcome to Yolnu Homeland

Depart Nhulunbuy accommodation or Gove Airport at 9am with your Yolnu guide.

Transfer to Yirrkala to visit Buku Larrnggay Mulka Centre, one of the oldest and most respected Aboriginal Art centres in Australia, located in the Yirrkala community. Have a guided interpretation of historical Aboriginal Land Rights bark petitions. Local works are available for purchase and can be shipped anywhere in Australia.

Depart Yirrkala for Yolnu Homeland.

Arrive Yolnu Homeland where you will receive a traditional welcome to country and general orientation.

This afternoon your hosts will deliver a Yolnu cultural class sharing and telling the story of the homeland.

Dinner and fireside chat.

- △ Accommodation: Yolnu Homeland
- Lunch and dinner provided

Day 2 28 May
Cultural Awareness Program commences which covers areas including:

- Yolnu culture and kinship.
- Basic Yolnu Matha language.
- Yolnu law.
- Avoidance relationships.
- Yolnu sign language.
- Activities such as weaving, jewellery making, bush medicine.

- △ Accommodation: Yolnu Homeland
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

Day 3 29 May
Cultural program continues, with activities which can include:

- Painting, astrology, gathering oysters or mud crabs cooking.
- Learn about Aboriginal astrology, healing ceremony, crying ceremony (Nathi).
- Dinner & storytelling with Yolnu families.

- △ Accommodation: Yolnu Homeland
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

Day 4 30 May
Yolnu Homeland to Nhulunbuy

- Cultural program continues.
- Depart homeland for Nhulunbuy.
- Arrive Walkabout Lodge.
- △ Walkabout Lodge, Nhulunbuy (or similar)
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

Day 5 31 May
Departure

- Breakfast at Walkabout Lodge (or similar).
- Transfer to Gove Airport.
- Arrive Gove Airport to check in for flight and farewell Yolnu guide.
- Breakfast provided
- △ TOUR ENDS

Why don't you extend your trip in Darwin to include a visit to Kakadu National Park or in Cairns to visit the Great Barrier Reef. We are happy to help you with your pre or post touring.

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COST

\$2365 /PERSON TWIN SHARE. MIN 6 PAX – MAX 14 PAX

Costs include the following services as per itinerary

- 3 nights in basic lodge or tent accommodation with beds and fresh linen provided (twin share)
- 1 night motel accommodation in Nhulunbuy at end of trip (twin share)
- All camping equipment and bedding supplied
- Yolngu driver/guides
- All transport in the East Arnhem Region including airport transfers and ground touring
- All meals whilst on tour unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary
- Cultural experiences with Yolngu families
- Visit the world-renowned Aboriginal Art Centre Buku Larmggay Mulka in Yirrkala (subject to opening hours – not open on Sundays)
- Homeland fees
- Aboriginal Land Recreation Area Access Permits

Costs do not include

- Airfares from your home port to Nhulunbuy
- Transit accommodation where necessary in either Darwin or Nhulunbuy depending on which air route taken.
- Meals/beverages other than specified
- Tips & gratuities



COVID-19

The supplier has the COVID-19 Clean Practicing Business Accreditation, the Northern Territory Government Covid-Safe Plan in place and went through the Infection Control Training.



Health and Safety Information

For the health and safety of all passengers and staff on tour, any illness (such as fever, coughing or difficulty breathing) will not be accepted onboard any IAT touring unless they can provide us with a negative COVID-19 test result received within the past 72 hours. Should any passenger start to feel unwell on arrival or while on tour, they must immediately advise the tour manager and contact a medical practitioner / medical centre / hospital. To return to the tour the passenger must be deemed fit and well to participate fully on the tour, obtaining and providing IAT with a written medical clearance i.e. not just a negative COVID-19 test. Any costs incurred will be at the passenger's own expense.



Please refer to further information to our Terms & Conditions.

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EXTRA INFO

Travel dates

27th – 31st May 2021

Accommodation

- Different homelands have different accommodation styles. We will not be deciding which tours go to which homeland until closer to the travel date.
- Bedding is either in a twin share large army style tent or multi bed bunkhouse.
- We can organize Single Accommodation, but it will be in single tents, sleeping on the floor of the tent on a thin mattress.
- Bathrooms are shared on all homelands.

Itinerary

- Activities will vary according to the season and availability of materials, Mothers and daughters are welcome as well as small children.
- All times and activities are subject to change and some activities may not be possible due to weather conditions or cultural reasons.

Flight Options (you will be responsible for)

- Air North has a Cairns or Darwin to Gove route.
- Qantas has flights from Sydney via Cairns using Air North on code share for the Cairns – Gove sector.

Costs for the travel arrangements as per itinerary

- The costs are valid for the travel date outlined above only.
- All costs are based on nett per person twin share costs in Australian Dollars (aud).

Min. 6 Pax / Max. 14 Pax	AUD \$2,365
Child Rate (4 – 14 years)	AUD \$1,965
Single supplement	AUD \$135



PICTURE: TOURISM AUSTRALIA

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