

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*



Inspiring Journeys

# AUSTRALIA



TASMANIA • ULURU • KAKADU • THE BAROSSA • MARGARET RIVER

# NORTHERN TERRITORY DREAMING

DARWIN | KAKADU NATIONAL PARK | NITMILUK (KATHERINE) GORGE | LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK | ALICE SPRINGS | WEST MACDONNELL RANGES | KINGS CANYON | KATA TJUṬA | ULURU



Be immersed into the very heartland of Australia and experience its most sacred landscapes, bountiful National Parks and thundering waterfalls. Discover the Top End's striking landscape then journey to the magical Red Centre, seeing iconic Uluru, the mystical domes of Kata Tjuta, and windswept Walpa Gorge.

As this journey departs from Hilton Darwin at 7.30am, accommodation will need to be pre-booked for the previous night.

## Day 1: Darwin – Litchfield – Kakadu

Meet your Journey Director and board your luxury vehicle to begin your journey of discovery in the Top End. Travel across the Finnis River to Litchfield National Park. Visit tumbling Florence Falls and also enjoy a swim to cool off at Wangi Falls. Get ready for a cross-country journey to

the magnificent Kakadu National Park. Keep your eyes peeled for crocodiles as you cross the South Alligator River, and Brolgas, Magpie Geese and Jabiru as you traverse the long grasses of the marshes and wetlands. Meet your fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception this evening.

**HOTEL** Mercure Kakadu Crocodile, Jabiru, 2 nights  
**MEALS** Dinner with wine

## Day 2: Kakadu National Park

- Join your Journey Director on a walk at Kakadu's stunning Ubirr rock art site. You'll see ancient rock art and discover remarkable views over the surrounding wetlands and escarpments from the fantastic vantage point, Nadab lookout. After lunch, on the Yellow Water Billabong cruise you will see a myriad of different bird species, spot estuarine crocodiles and enjoy the stunning billabong and floodplains system.

**MEALS** Breakfast, lunch, dinner with wine

## Day 3: Kakadu – Nitmiluk National Park

- This morning you'll visit Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) to see its fascinating Aboriginal rock art. You'll also hear first-hand from your Journey Director a detailed interpretation of the art and the rich Aboriginal culture as you explore the various outdoor 'galleries' with art that dates back some 20,000 years. You will continue driving through the ancient lands of Kakadu National Park through to the town of Katherine and further on to Nitmiluk National Park. Indulge in five-star luxury at Cicada Lodge, a stunning architect designed eco-lodge surrounded by nature, where each room has a private balcony that opens to the glories of Nitmiluk National Park. Cool off from the heat of the day while enjoy a swim in the pool as the sunsets before a beautiful dinner.

**HOTEL** Cicada Lodge, Nitmiluk National Park, 2 nights  
**MEALS** Breakfast, dinner with wine

## Day 4: Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge

- Today immerse yourself as you meet prominent local Manual Pamkal who will welcome you with a traditional tune on the didgeridoo. Manual was born and raised immersed in his rich traditional culture. He'll share stories of growing up in the bush and teach you the fine art of rarrk painting using a special brush from a reed called Julk. Call up the inner artist within you and paint your own masterpiece to take home! This evening indulge in a special sunset dinner cruise along Katherine River. You'll marvel at the gorges while you spot wildlife and learn about the history and culture of the local Jawoyn people. Enjoy the peaceful ambience during the candle-lit three course dinner cooked on board your boat.

**MEALS** Breakfast, lunch, Local Dining Experience

## Day 5: Katherine – Darwin

- Travel north along the Stuart Highway stopping at the gorgeous Edith Falls on the way for a relaxing dip and some lunch. Continue to Adelaide River War Cemetery. During WWII, Adelaide River was the headquarters to a large military base and a large cemetery was created especially for those who gave their lives in the service and defence of their country.

**HOTEL** Hilton, Darwin  
**MEALS** Breakfast, lunch

## Day 6: Darwin – Alice Springs

- After a morning flight to Alice Springs your Central Australia Journey Director will share their take on what life is like in such an isolated Australian town like Alice Springs. Immerse yourself in the historic Alice Springs Telegraph Station precinct and learn about the overland telegraph line as you discover its historic buildings. Explore the West MacDonnell Ranges on a walk through the dramatic Simpsons Gap. Relish spectacular views across Alice Springs from Anzac Hill before some free time to explore the town or relax by your resort pool. Join your fellow guests at the Tali restaurant for Dinner.

**HOTEL** Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters  
**MEALS** Breakfast, dinner with wine

## Day 7: Alice Springs – Kings Canyon

- Now we're off the beaten track exploring along the 4WD Giles Track crossing dry river beds and outback landscapes to Kings Canyon Resort. The flickering glow of this evening's fire under the canopy of a starry southern hemisphere sky is the perfect accompaniment to your Under a Desert Moon highlight dinner. This degustation dinner with matching wines is the perfect indulgent end to the day.

**HOTEL** Kings Canyon Resort  
**MEALS** Breakfast, lunch, Local Dining Experience

## Day 8: Kings Canyon – Uluru

- Gaze across the deep chasm at the edge of Kings Canyon as you embark on a sunrise 6km rim walk past the domed 'Lost City' and down into the luscious 'Garden of Eden'. Immerse yourself while visiting the Wanmarra Community with local Aboriginal people and learn about the Luritja and Pertame people's spiritual connection to the land at the Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience. Discover bush food and bush medicine used for spirituality and healing. Wandering across desert landscapes leaving Kings Canyon behind and arriving for lunch at Curtin Springs Station, a vast farming property. Feel the stirring of something bigger than you as you arrive in Ayers Rock Resort, your launchpad to Australia's fiery heart in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Travelling to Uluru as the day fades, the outback sun bids a fiery farewell. This is the perfect backdrop for sparkling sundowners while overlooking Uluru.

**HOTEL** Sails in the Desert Hotel, Ayers Rock Resort, 2 nights  
**MEALS** Breakfast, lunch

## Day 9: Uluru & Kata Tjuta

- Enjoy a relaxed start to the day before exploring, and learning about the spiritual connection the local Anangu caretakers have with the land. Skirt the red walls of Uluru, hear ancient tales and see rock art, and then visit Muṯitjulu Waterhole. Relax by the resort pool or take to the skies to see Uluru from above before a visit to Kata Tjuta for a walk through Walpa Gorge.

**MEALS** Breakfast, dinner with wine

## Day 10: Field of Light – Uluru – Alice Springs

- Observe the shifting lights of Bruce Munro's impressive Field of Light art installation as the desert awakens and the sunrise lights up across Uluru. Traverse the vast outback to Alice Springs. This evening, immerse yourself against the backdrop of the outback at our open-air bush BBQ Celebration Dinner. Located off the beaten track in the heart of the East MacDonnell Ranges, you'll enjoy drinks as a bush balladeer sings classic Australian songs and shares stories of outback living, under the Southern Hemisphere's Milky Way.

**HOTEL** Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters  
**MEALS** Breakfast, Celebration Dinner

## Day 11: Farewell from Alice Springs

Relax at breakfast this morning as your epic journey comes to an end.

**MEALS** Breakfast

## DEPARTURES

2024			
May	09, 23	Aug	01, 15, 29
Jun	06, 20	Sep	12, 26
Jul	04, 18		

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit [inspiringjourneys.com/mnrc](https://inspiringjourneys.com/mnrc) or contact your local travel agent. A limited number of single rooms are also available.

## INCLUSIONS

- Small group (average 16 guests)
- 21+ Unforgettable experiences
- 23 included meals
- 10 Nights premium accommodation

## NOTES

### MNCR: DARWIN TO ALICE SPRINGS

- Flights are not included in holiday price.
- Private vehicle return airport to hotel transfers in Darwin are included in the price.
- Flight Information:  
Day prior – flights to arrive anytime into Darwin Airport  
Day 11 – flights to depart anytime from Alice Springs Airport  
Internal-holiday flight: The flight below is required to be purchased in order to fulfil the holiday itinerary:  
Day 6 – Darwin to Alice Springs



## IMMERSE

Learn the fine art of 'rarrk' painting and discover the ancient Aboriginal art galleries of Kakadu National Park.

## INDULGE

Unwind on an indulgent Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge dinner cruise and dine at the award-winning Cicada Lodge.

## EXPLORE

Enter Walpa Gorge, an ancient temple crafted by nature, and keep an eye out for crocodiles on the Yellow Water Billabong.

## RELAX

Unwind at Kings Canyon Resort, and stay in the heart of Nitmiluk at eco-friendly Cicada Lodge.