



# DARWIN Highlights



Explore the adventure, wildlife and aboriginal culture that awaits you in Darwin!

## Visit the Mindil Beach Market at Sunset

Visit on Thursdays and Sundays 16:00 – 21:00 April to October, **watch the sun set** and enjoy a huge range of stalls as well as 60 plus food tents from over 20 countries. It's ok to bring your own alcohol to this event as none is sold on site. You might even be able to try some crocodile!

If you're driving your camper there, **take your camping chairs** (limited free parking Gulrith Drive or Darwin High School). The markets are 3 km from the city and you'd probably find it easy to get on bus 4 or 6, or some hotels have shuttle buses.

## Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

Set in a **scenic location overlooking the Arafura Sea** in Darwin, the museum and gallery is home to internationally renowned artistic, cultural and scientific collections and research programs.

Each year the museum and gallery present a dynamic program of **exhibitions**, carefully curated from the collection, and the best travelling exhibitions from around Australia displaying items of aboriginal history and their connections with Asian seafarers, through to recent history and modern development. It includes a realistic exhibition of the effects of **Cyclone Tracy**. It is also the home of the annual Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - the most significant celebration of its kind in Australia. **Free admission**. Address: 19 Conacher Street, The Gardens, Darwin, open 10:00 – 17:00 daily (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and Good Friday).

## Darwin Aviation Museum

The **Darwin Aviation Museum** (formerly known as Australian Aviation Heritage Centre) with its award-winning displays is

home to 19 civil and military aircraft including a **B-52 Mitchell Bomber** (one of the few surviving in the world), 21 engines and relicts of crashed aircraft, 38 major displays depicting the aviation history of the Northern Territory.

It was established in 1976 by a group of enthusiasts who sought to preserve aviation artefacts and WWII aircraft salvaged after the destruction resulting from Cyclone Tracy and eventually broadened to include the exploration and documentation of WWII aircraft crash sites and the recovery and preservation of aviation relics related to the **defence of Darwin during WWII**. Address 557 Stuart Highway, Winnellie, admission: Adults \$16, Seniors \$12, open 09:00 – 17:00 daily.



## Royal Flying Doctor Service

Affectionately known throughout Australia as **RFDS**, its story began back in 1939 by **Reverend John Flynn**. Here you will get to enjoy the heroic tales of the birth and growth of the RFDS, learn about its history, the activities of the pilots, engineers, doctors and nurses and the experience of the patients that are carried and cared for each day. It also shares a **second iconic story** with its **world class virtual reality** of the bombing of Darwin harbour and life size holograms, interactive storytelling and full-size replicas of a Japanese aircraft and **Camilla the flying boat**. Address: Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin. Open: 09:30 – 17:00 daily (bank

holidays 10:00 – 15:00, closed Christmas Day and Good Friday). Admission: Adults \$28, Seniors \$22.

### WWII Oil Storage Tunnels

The **WWII Oil Storage Tunnels** were built during the war by the Civil Construction Corps. Situated in the Darwin Wharf Precinct on Kitchener Drive, it was reopened in 1992 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin.

Located **beneath the cliffs of Darwin city**, a short walk from the city centre and the Esplanade, this exciting tourist facility is self-guided. The WWII Tunnels feature a photographic display of Darwin during WWII including photographs of the men and women who served in the protection of our great country.

### Darwin Waterfront Precinct

Experience the best of Darwin's tropical lifestyle at the **Darwin Waterfront Precinct**, just five minutes' walk from the city centre. Relax with a coffee or linger over a long breakfast, lunch, dinner or drinks at one of the precinct's many cafes, restaurants and bars. Book a luxurious self-pampering experience, find the perfect souvenir or just meander around the lush parklands and walkways dotted with public art and soak up the tranquil ocean views.

Ride the swell at the **Wave Lagoon** or float in the free saltwater Recreation Lagoon with a manmade beach and shady lawn beyond. The inviting, crystal blue waters of the Wave Lagoon draw everyone to the centre of the precinct with 10 different wave patterns to excite people of all ages. Open: 10:00 to 18:00 daily, Admission: adults \$7, concessions \$5. There are also **sunset cruises** offered with Darwin Harbour Cruises.

### George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

These **gardens were established 130 years ago** to introduce and evaluate plants for food and flavour. The gardens have survived numerous cyclones and the direct

effects of WWII. Wander through monsoon forests, coastal dunes, mangroves and open woodlands all in the one place.

The location of the gardens is within the **Fannie Bay cultural and recreational precinct** – takes about 1.5 hours to walk here from city. It is expected that later this year, construction will be taking place on a new \$9.9 million facelift to the visitor and events centre bringing with it lots of new and exciting interactive displays, improved facilities and an all-round incredible experience of this magnificent space.

### Interesting Fact!

**The Bombing of Darwin occurred on 19.02.42 and was both the first and the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australia.**

**On this day, 242 Japanese aircraft attacked ships in Darwin's harbour and the town's two airfields in an attempt to prevent the Allies from using them as bases to contest the invasions of Timor and Java.**

**The raids were the first and largest of almost 100 air raids against Australia during 1942–43**

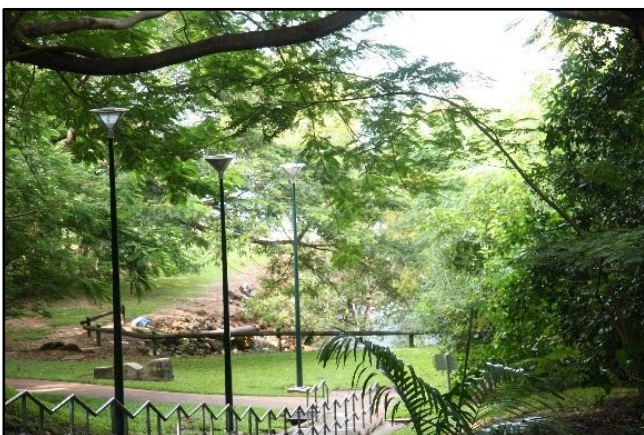
### Hop-on and Hop-off to get around Darwin!

Tour Darwin at your own pace with a 24-hour or 48-hour **hop-on hop-off pass**. See fabulous views from the open-top double-decker bus and get on and off at 10 convenient stops, including **Crococaurus Cove**, the waterfront precinct, **Military Museum** and **Fort Hill Wharf**. Stay as long as you like at the attractions of your choice, then hop on board to travel from sight to sight. Or stay on the bus to enjoy full 60 / 70-minute and 90-minute tours around Darwin April to September, while listening to an entertaining on-board commentary.

**Departure point:** You may join the tour at any Big Bus Darwin stops along the route. Call (61) 416 140 903 for more information or book your ticket online at [www.theaustralianexplorer.com.au](http://www.theaustralianexplorer.com.au)

### Day Trips from Darwin

We get fabulous reviews on a particular **day trip** which includes a **float plane ride** – it is a once in a lifetime experience and is not cheap, so not for everyone. The 'half day ultimate adventure tour Darwin' is a half day tour which showcases NT at its best. Includes Airboat, Helicopter, floatplane and a boat cruise as you're taken to a remote pristine lagoon. Call: (08) 8981 4881 or check out [www.outbackfloatplanes.com.au/tour/ultimate-tour](http://www.outbackfloatplanes.com.au/tour/ultimate-tour)





## So many things to do! You might also like to check out...

**Deckchair Cinema** - a unique outdoor cinema experience on the edge of Darwin Harbour that is truly stunning: watch the sunset over the sea and enjoy the tropical garden setting with a meal and a drink before the movie starts.

You can take your own picnic, strictly NO BYO though, they are licenced to sell alcohol there. The box office and kiosk open at 18:00 every night April to November.

**Darwin Waterfront Heritage & Cultural Trail** - this rich cultural heritage has been incorporated into many of the public infrastructure components of the Darwin Waterfront Precinct.

Public art has been integrated amongst the buildings, amenities and public space, celebrating the diverse cultural influences of the area.

To view a selection of heritage sites, please refer to the map you have been given of the Heritage & Cultural Trail.

**Crocosaurus Cove** – located in the city centre, this gives you an opportunity for an ‘up close’ look at the saltwater crocodiles. This has the largest display in the world of the Australian Reptile, plus an opportunity to swim with the crocs!

## Taxi

Darwin Radio Taxi. **Tel.** 131 008

Payment methods: VISA, MASTERCARD, EFTPOS, Cash

## Parking for your camper at Darwin City and Waterfront

Paid parking applies 7 days a week.

- **Stokes Hill Road:** there is a car park on the left-hand side opposite the Convention centre you can reverse parks on the mountain side of Stokes Hill Rd car park. **Cost: \$3** for 3-hours parking or \$6 for the day.
- **Convention centre:** rear of the convention centre – the parking ranger has advised if you just have a small overhang into another park; pay for one spot. If you need to park across two parks; pay for two. **Cost: \$5** flat rate for the day.

## Useful Information

Visitor Information Centre  
Tourism Top End

Address: 6 Bennett St,  
Darwin NT 0800

Phone: 1300 138 886

