

ARNHEMLAND AIRTOUR 2016



This year we have designed a comprehensive tour of Arnhem Land, focusing not only on the art centres, but we have also included immersive environmental events. A spectacular time of year, after the wet season has abated, the drier air ensures comfort whilst the land is still lush and green.

The customised trip will give you the opportunity to walk around the community environs and engage with the local residents. In particular you will meet the artists, often the artist's family and certainly the arts workers. On occasion we have been offered spontaneous invitations to visit the artist's homes and camps, the chance to visit the local school, learn more about medicinal botany, Yolngu law, interpret rock art or do some night fishing. Overall the style and pace of the trip is to give those interested in Top End Indigenous Australian art and culture an opportunity to fulfil their curiosity in a real time way.

Make no mistake; this trip cannot be achieved without the expertise of the Aboriginal Art Connections team with many years of collective experience and enthusiasm for Northern Australia. We will provide a comfortable trip and an extraordinary experience.

The service you can expect from the team at Aboriginal Art Connections is exemplary. Please be aware that accessing these remote communities in Arnhem land is restricted, so we make all the applications on your behalf to clear entry, prepare your lodgings, ensure meals are hearty and fulfilling, down to the fragrant fresh coffee for morning and afternoon tea always in a scenic *let's just stop and take it in* location.

As your accompanying indigenous art specialist I am on board to facilitate your growing knowledge of the art forms of the region, such the stylistic shifts from eastern to western Arnhem land, to introducing specific artists work to you, and being that calm third party when required to help you make decisions with confidence when on the ground.



Aboriginal Art Connections

Taking you to the soul of Aboriginal art

In May we can expect an average minimum temperature of 22°C and an average maximum of 32°C. Please ensure you bring loose comfortable clothing and wear sensible walking shoes on any active tours. It is recommended you bring a small backpack to carry a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and water bottle. Ensure you drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

Sunday 22 May 2016 Day one (Dinner)

Arrival. Transfers will be provided from your flights to your accommodation. Today is a day of leisure to enjoy the welcoming feel of tropical Darwin. Relax by the pool, or take some time to explore some of Darwin's local attractions. A visit to the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT is highly recommended. Those with more time and wanting to explore further may choose to travel out of town to enjoy some of the local scenic attractions.

Talk to us for more information on the many wonderful sightseeing opportunities available.

Meet in the foyer of the hotel at 4.30 pm for a transfer to Stokes Hill Wharf. Enjoy a private sunset cruise on Darwin Harbour. What a fabulous way to start our adventure and get together with your fellow travellers to get to know each other and plan for your exciting week ahead. After the cruise head to one of Darwin's city restaurants for dinner (own expense) or head back to your accommodation.

Overnight Adina Apartments on Darwin Waterfront (or similar)

Monday 23 May Day two (Breakfast, lunch, dinner)



We'll be picked up from the hotel at 0800 for transfer to the general aviation section of Darwin airport for our 30-minute private charter flight to the Tiwi Islands. We'll be travelling in a Cessna 404 or similar with

a professional and experienced pilot for the duration of our trip.

On the Tiwi Islands the art of body painting for ceremony has been practiced for thousands of years. The decorative patterning of the Tiwi was also used on Pukumani poles (mortuary poles) and tungas (bark baskets). The traditional form of mark making was derived from the creation story. The continuous patterning used is primarily decorative with the emphasis on strength of design rather than narrative. The art form is a living evolving expression of Tiwi culture. Within Tiwi art the placement of line and dot is distinctive.

Our first stop today is at Bathurst Island where we'll be met at the airstrip and transferred to the small art centre of Ngarawanajirri. NgaruwanajirriInc is located in Nguiu on Bathurst Island in a culturally important building called the Keeping House. The name, Ngaruwanajirri, in Tiwi means "helping one another". This is an artists' co-operative workshop creating various types of art work.

Next we visit the famous Tiwi Design art studio and gallery. Tiwi Design features a screen-printing workshop, carving area, pottery shed and painting studio.

In the late morning we will board our aircraft again for the short flight to neighbouring Snake Bay (Milikapiti) Melville Island. We'll be met on arrival and transferred to Jilamara Arts. We'll stop for a relaxed picnic lunch together before spending some time at the art centre.



Timothy Cook at Jilamara Arts, Melville Is.

Jilamara Arts and Craft Association opened in the mid 1980's with a small group of artists using traditional Tiwi and contemporary media to produce paintings, etchings, screen-prints and lithographs. Artists use solely natural ochres in traditional colours in their paintings, many of which are highly collectable. Jilamara continues to produce innovative and contemporary body painting designs. Large carvings, including Pukumani Poles are a feature of Jilamara artists' work. www.jilamara.com

Then we travel on to Munupi Arts, on Milakapiti, Munupi Arts & Crafts Association is located

along Melville Islands north-western coastline at Pirlangimpi (Garden Point) and is the most recently formed art centre on the Tiwi Islands. Artists working at Munupi include Cornelia Tipumanatmirri, Susan WanjiWanji, FrancescaPuruntatmeri among others.



Cornelia Tipumanatmirri and Edward Yunipingu at Munupi Arts, Melville Is.

Return to Darwin and transfer to our accommodation. Meet for dinner, time and location to be advised.

Tuesday 24 May Day three (Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Check out of your accommodation. You'll be returning to this hotel, so you may store any excess luggage here.

We'll have an early start today with a transfer to the Darwin Airport at 0700 to join our chartered flight to Gove in eastern Arnhem Land. This flight will take approximately 2.5 hours, so settle in and enjoy your bird's eye view over Kakadu and Arnhem Land.

On arrival in Gove we'll pick up a rental car and take the 15 minute drive to Yirrkala to visit Buku Larrnggay Mulka arts centre. This part of Australia is very special. The coastline and hinterland are largely unspoilt and still managed by the traditional owners, the Yolngu (Aboriginal people of the region between Numbulwar and Maningrida).

Buku-Larrnggay means the feeling on your face as it is struck by the first rays of the sun - indicating that you are in the most easterly place in the Top End of Australia - Miwatj or the Sunrise country. Mulka is a sacred but public ceremony. It also means to hold or protect. Thus we are the Northeast Arnhem Land cultural centre and keeping place. The artists of the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre have established a worldwide reputation for excellence, having won many of Australia's major Indigenous art prizes.

Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art centre is the hub for renowned artists of this region and may provide the opportunity to meet important artists in addition to the extraordinary exhibition of beautiful memorial poles, small carvings, weavings, jewellery and bark paintings. The Centre is also a premier source of authentic yidaki (didgeridoos). www.yirrkala.com



Viewing art at Buku Larrngay gallery, Yirrkala

This afternoon head to the township of Nhulunbuy where will overnight in the local “Walkabout Hotel”.

Wednesday 25 MayDay four (Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

After breakfast we’ll head to the airport to meet our private charter plane for the next leg of the journey.

This morning we board our private aircraft and take a short flight to the community at Elcho Island, Galiwin’ku. The Art Centre at Elcho Island is located on a cliff top south east of the Galiwin’ku town centre and enjoys spectacular views looking over Mission Beach, Abbott Island and the surrounding sea. The artists from Elcho Island specialise in producing both traditional Yolngu style works and more contemporary designs utilising natural ochres on bark and paper. They also produce stunning Morning Star Poles, Yidaki, carvings, jewellery, and woven baskets made from raw materials collected from the surrounding bushland and beaches.

www.elchoarts.com



Elcho Island coastline outside art centre



Owls by Judy Manany, Elcho Island

In the early afternoon we'll head to Ramingining to visit Bula'bula Arts. Bula'bula Arts is renowned for paintings on bark and on canvas, hollow logs and fibre art such as baskets, mats and dilly-bags and limited edition prints on paper. In 2007, Bula'bula Arts revamped its screen-printing activities, producing lengths of screen-printed fabric. Ramingining is situated about 30 kms from the coast and the region is home to more than sixteen clans speaking fourteen different languages. Ramingining is the town centre for a series of small outstations dominated by great painters, such as Dorothy Djukulul and Djardie Ashley, Pussycat Guthay Guthay and NamiyalBopori. www.bulabula-arts.com



Late this afternoon we'll fly to the Arnhem Land community of Maningrida for our overnight accommodation.

Our accommodation is located at Djinkarr, a remote outstation about 15 minutes drive from Maningrida community. Built with locally produced mud bricks and decorated with Maningrida art, the lodge is set up in the bush, in a quiet and pristine environment. Overlooking the floodplains, the lodge has three rooms, large dining room and veranda to relax.

Meals are served in the central dining area and are freshly prepared by our team of local hosts. 3 spacious rooms sleep up to 2 people each. Bathroom facilities are located within the Lodge, and are available on a shared basis.

Overnight Djinkarr, Maningrida or Arnhem Land Barramundi Nature Lodge (depending on group numbers).

Maningrida Arts Centre

www.maningrida.com/tourism

Thursday 26 May Day five (Breakfast, lunch, dinner)



We'll spend today at Maningrida, experiencing a taste of local culture and art. The Maningrida Arts and Culture centre features diverse art styles characteristic of the many different language groups of central Arnhem Land. Leading artists managed by Maningrida Arts and Culture include John Mawundjul, James Iyuna, Marina Murdinga and AnniebelleMarrngamarrnga. You will see an extensive range of bark paintings, wood carvings, woven sculpture, beautifully painted hollow logs and intricate weavings.

You will also enjoy a guided tour of the Djomi Museum showcasing the art and culture of the local people and a visit by troopie out to an artist's outstation. www.maningrida.com

This afternoon we will take an eco cruise on the Liverpool River in the company of local guides.

Dinner tonight will be at Arnhem Land Barramundi Nature Lodge, which is situated close to our accommodation. www.barralodge.com.au/content/show/Dining.html

Overnight in Maningrida.

Friday 27 May Day six (Breakfast, lunch, dinner)



This morning we'll depart Maningrida and fly west to the community of Oenpelli.

On arrival at Oenpelli we'll be met at the airstrip and transferred to Injalak Arts and Crafts.

The Injalak Art Centre is situated in the most beautiful of sites. The escarpment rises to the east. Gunbalanya billabong at its rear is surrounded by open flood plains and overshadowed by Injalak Hill - a site extensively rich in rock art paintings and the source of much inspiration for the artists. It is a stunning, beautiful place.

Join experienced Indigenous guides for an exclusive tour of Injalak Hill. Discover a natural marvel on this tour in this place of black soil plains and tranquil wetlands. Extending from the base of a vast escarpment, you can see a wide variety of birds, wallabies, goannas and other wildlife. Beautiful sandstone caves, where you will find the ancient remnants of Aboriginal dwellings and rock paintings, are also explored on this memorable tour. The tour is led by an indigenous guide, providing a unique perspective. Tours generally go for two to three hours and a reasonable level of fitness is required.

After the tour be head to Injalak Arts and Crafts and explore some of the treasures tucked away here. Injalak produces art on bark and paper in the style synonymous with

Western Arnhem Land; a large range of weavings; didgeridoos, artefacts and carvings, and screen-printed products such as t-shirts and fabrics.

Later this afternoon we'll fly to Darwin for our final evening together.

Saturday 28 MayDay seven (Breakfast)

Breakfast at the hotel is included today. Transfer to the airport for departure.

*** Please note that we reserve the right to alter the order of events or substitute destinations where necessary due to local conditions. Items that may affect the itinerary may include but are*

not limited to extreme weather conditions and/or cultural considerations such as funerals or ceremonies.

Price is inclusive of all accommodation, travel and meals and beverages (not including alcoholic beverages) ex Darwin. You'll be accompanied by an Australian Aboriginal Art expert and an escort from Aboriginal Art Connections.

Single: Aus\$11,750 (please note, accommodation at Maningrida is on a twin share basis only)
Twin: Aus\$11,250 per person twin share

Comparative to other tours on offer, we can assure you that this trip is cost efficient, without compromising a very high level of safety, comfort and flexibility due to our private aircraft and pilot, and our on board logistics/Camp Mother and art specialist. We can assure you extraordinary experiences and personal introductions to artists with an entire extra day for the price most competitors charge for 5 nights not 6 as we have organised.

Things to remember:

Ph: +61 (0)8 8985 3266 or +61 416 844577. tracey@talentteam.com.au
GPO Box 4407, Darwin NT Australia 0801

Luggage: Please limit your luggage to one small, soft bag to a maximum of 14kgs per person while on the charter flight, plus one item of carry on baggage. You may store excess luggage at the Darwin hotel.

Clothing: We recommend cool, comfortable, casual clothing throughout the journey. The days will be hot, humid and sunny and the nights warm. Hotels and restaurants in Darwin and Arnhem Land do not have strict dress requirements, neat casual clothing is the norm. Please bring comfortable walking shoes and a light long sleeved shirt for daytime walks.

Be sun smart: Make sure to wear a hat and sunglasses and sunscreen when we're outdoors and don't forget to drink lots of water at all times.

Travel insurance: Whilst all care is taken to provide the itinerary as stated, there may be some issues that are beyond our control. We recommend that all travellers have adequate travel insurance to cover delays, loss or theft of personal belongings, cancellations or illness. We can assist you with a policy if required.

Don't forget: Your cameras and all necessary chargers and batteries. We may often be a long way from a store or supermarket and choices may be limited. Be sure to carry spare batteries and memory cards as there will be many photo opportunities along the way. All accommodation houses will have access to standard power points in the rooms, with some (but not all) providing internet access. We will often be out of mobile telephone range but will have a satellite phone for emergencies.

Shopping: Most hotels and art centres will accept Visa card and MasterCard with the options for Diners and Amex being more limited. Art centres will also arrange careful packaging and shipment of any purchases you may make along the way as it will not be possible for you to carry art works with you.

Meals: Meals are included where stated on the itinerary. This will be a standard cooked breakfast, light (picnic) lunch or two course dinner. No alcoholic beverages are included but may be purchased easily at most locations. As alcohol is not permitted in Arnhem Land, there will be no alcohol during our stay at Djinkarr. Please let us know in advance if you have any special dietary needs or medical conditions we should be aware of.