



Darwin & Around

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Laneway Speciality Coffee (p823)
- ➔ Exotic North Indian Cuisine (p823)
- ➔ Darwin Ski Club (p823)
- ➔ Moorish Café (p822)
- ➔ Stokes Hill Wharf (p822)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Melaleuca on Mitchell (p820)
- ➔ Darwin Central Hotel (p821)
- ➔ Wildman Wilderness Lodge (p831)
- ➔ Pine Creek Railway Resort (p834)
- ➔ Anbinik (Lakeview) Resort (p839)

Why Go?

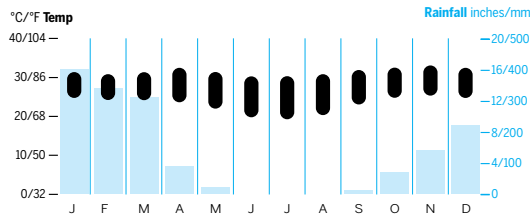
The Top End is frontier country. It feels wild out here; time spent exploring the region's outer reaches will calibrate your senses away from urban grit. The wildness comes in many forms – from remote Arnhem Land to backpackers letting loose on Darwin's Mitchell St.

You will find unparalleled opportunities to experience timeless Indigenous culture, and the legacy left behind from tens of thousands of years of occupation. Indigenous rock art has left an extraordinary mark on the landscape – an ancient diary of human existence, seemingly oblivious to years of climatic onslaught.

The cosmopolitan capital of Darwin is Australia's doorway to Asia and celebrates its multicultural mix with delicious fusion cuisine and a relaxed tropical vibe. Darwin feels more like a big town than a city, and the dreamy coastline around its outer reaches rakes at the heart when a blood red sun is dipping over the horizon.

When to Go

Darwin



Apr-Aug Peak season with lower humidity in the north.

Jun & Jul Darwin is alight with the sounds, sights and cultural blitz of the Fringe Festival.

Sep-Mar Barra-mundi fishing heats up as the Wet turns the Top End into a watery wonderland.



Darwin & Around Highlights

- ① Seeing glinting crocodile eyes peering from the watery wonderland of **Kakadu National Park** (p834).
- ② Sampling a satay and other exotic fare at Darwin's

Mindil Beach Sunset Market (p825).

- ③ Plunging into a, crystal-clear rock pool at **Litchfield National Park** (p832).

- ④ Hooking up a barra on the **Daly or Mary rivers** (p830); some of Australia's best **barramundi fishing** (p811).