

NATURE'S WAY

5-Day ITINERARY

Nature's Way winds through a wetland wilderness steeped in Aboriginal culture and pioneering history. The triangular drive begins in Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory, and meanders through the Adelaide and Mary River wetlands to World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park - owned and jointly managed by a number of Aboriginal clans.

Then it's on to Litchfield National Park with its stunning waterfalls and return to Darwin. For photographic, wildlife and bird watching enthusiasts, this is a dream drive on a fully sealed road - suitable for a two-wheel-drive vehicle.

Day 1

On this day travel a total 250 kilometres from Darwin to Jabiru in Kakadu National Park. Depart Darwin on the Explorer's Way and turn left onto the Arnhem Highway. Continue along to Jabiru in the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park. Birdwatchers and nature lovers should stop along the way at the Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre and a jumping crocodile cruise on the Adelaide River. Spend the night in the township of Jabiru.

Days 2 and 3

Continue experiencing Kakadu. Spend the next two or three days experiencing Kakadu. There are many Aboriginal rock art sites, walks to escarpment lookouts, waterfalls and impressive visitor centres. One of the best ways to experience Kakadu is from the air, so consider a scenic flight. There are also day trip options with indigenous experiences and Twin Falls boat cruises. Join a river or billabong cruise, the best place to experience Kakadu's prolific wildlife with a local Aboriginal guide. Camp the night at Gunlom Falls.

Day 4

Travel from Jabiru to Litchfield National Park a total of 360 kilometres. Depart Jabiru and continue south to Pine Creek. Gold was discovered at Pine Creek in 1871 and the original buildings built back in the heady gold days still stand. Pine Creek's attractions include a Railway Station that was built in 1888 and Miners' Park which houses original mining machinery. These are great places for a pub meal. Head back onto the Explorer's Way to Litchfield National Park. Spend the night in its gateway township of Batchelor.

Day 5

Spend the day exploring Litchfield on the bushwalking tracks, admiring the bird and wildlife species, and swimming in the crystal-clear waterholes under thundering waterfalls that flow year-round. Take a wildlife cruise on the Reynolds River, part of a bordering working cattle station. At the end of the day, drive the hour-and-a-half back up the highway to Darwin.

