

Places to visit  
**Darwin**  
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Each year a number of cruises on Orion and other ships commence and/or finish in Darwin. So if you are taking one of these cruises you should consider spending some days prior to or after the cruise in this northern city. There is so much to see and do, not just around the town, but close by. We found that by staying at a Hotel on the Esplanade you could walk to so many places of interest – Government House, The Tree of Knowledge, The Cenotaph, and Darwin Wharf Precinct to mention a few. Jo Hindle from Tourism NT's media unit prepared a list of activities for consideration.



**Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory** – Conacher Street, Fannie Bay. Outstanding natural science exhibits, Aboriginal art, marine displays and history as well as interactive and educational displays. Two minutes' drive from city. Open 9am to 5pm Mon – Fri, 10am to 5pm Sat/Sun.

**George Brown Darwin Botanical Gardens** – Enter by Gardens Road or Geranium St. Stroll around the gardens and see the wide variety of tropical plants and trees on display. 15 minutes' walk from city. Open 7 days a week 7.30am – 7.00pm

**Lyon's Cottage** is a fine example of early Darwin architecture. Not many of Darwin's old buildings survived Cyclone Tracy in 1974. This restored 1925 stone cottage did and is open to the public and houses a collection of European and Larrakia history. The Esplanade (in the heart of the city), Darwin open Mon-Fri 10am – 4.30pm, Sat/Sun 10am – 4.00pm



**Fannie Bay Gaol Museum** was opened in 1883 and depicts the early Territory penal system that was used until 1979. The Gaol is now a museum of incarceration and visitors will be glad they can walk out the front gate after seeing the crude facilities and chilling old gallows. East Point Rd, Fannie Bay (two minutes' drive from the city), open 7 days 10 am – 4.30pm.

**Lake Alexander** on the East Point Reserve; a 200-hectare recreation area with natural forest and mangroves. Visitors can enjoy a swim in the safety of this lake where there are picnic, barbecue and toilet facilities. This reserve also has an excellent walk around the foreshore. Two minutes' drive from the city. Or Hire a bike and ride along the Esplanade to East Point – there are terrific dedicated bike paths along the harbour side.

**Bicentennial Park** is located on Darwin's Esplanade and has beautifully manicured, shady lawns and great jogging and cycling paths. The park has many bench seats for visitors to sit and enjoy views of Darwin Harbour, have a bite to eat and relax. Plenty of interpretive signage about past wartime activity of the area. In the heart of the city.

**Chinese Museum** at the Chung Wah Society Hall, next to the Chinese Temple, Woods Street, City. Open 10am to 2pm, Mon – Fri. In the heart of the city.

Darwin sustained 64 bombings by the Japanese during WWII, so if you're interested in things military, there's plenty to see, including an excellent **Military museum** (at East Point, five minutes' from city), the **WWII oil-storage tunnels** five minutes' walk from city) and the **Australian Aviation Heritage Centre** (15 minutes' drive from city), which houses a real B52 bomber.

**Darwin Harbour cruises** – join a lunchtime harbour cruise and explore sandy beaches, mangroves and isolated reefs.

**Australian Pearling Exhibition** – Australian pearling industry history, and **Indo Pacific Marine** – live coral, seasonal displays of local sea life and tanks containing complete eco-systems – right on Stokes Hill Wharf.

**Didgeridoo Hut** – wide range of didgeridoos and

local Aboriginal art and craft. On the way out of town on the Arnhem Highway; half an hour from city.

**Adelaide River Jumping Crocodile Cruise** – a 1.5-hour cruise entertaining passengers with wild crocodile feeding displays. 45 minutes' from the city.

**Territory Wildlife Park** – a famous nature attraction presenting native Territory animals in their natural habitat. Don't miss the open-air birds of prey display. 45 minutes' from the city. Team this visit with a visit to neighbouring **Berry Springs Nature Park** – a natural freshwater spring, a popular swimming and picnic spot.

**Barramundi fishing** – jump on a half day or full day fishing tour with experienced fishing tour operators on Darwin Harbour.

An easy way to get around Darwin city and see the sites is to take the **Tour Tub** – you can hop on and off wherever you want. Leaves from Darwin's city mall regularly.

**Aquascene** – on the high tide hundreds of fish come in from the sea and you can stand knee deep off the beach and feed them by hand. Five minutes' walk from the city.

**Crocodylus Park** – 20 minutes' drive from the city where you can see the jumping crocs at feeding time, lions, tigers, primates, dingoes, birds and plenty more wildlife.

**DAY TRIP:** Hire a car and drive to **Litchfield National Park**, an hour and a half from Darwin. Swim in safe, permanent waterfall pools and swimming holes, surrounded with lush rainforest vegetation, clear waterholes are fed by waterfalls tumbling over sandstone escarpments. Florence Falls and Buley Rock Hole are safe places to swim throughout the year. Some good bushwalks here too.

**DAY TRIP:** Fly to the **Tiwi Islands**, north of Darwin, in 30 minutes. Part of the Territory's tropical coastline and rich in Aboriginal culture. Invest in quality local arts and crafts.

Also you could organise a trip to Kakadu National Park or if you need to shop there are excellent outlets in the Mall or catch a free bus to the Casuarina Shopping Complex where you can easily fill in a day. Markets are very popular, particularly the Mindil Beach Sunset Markets open on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoon during the dry season (May to October).

**You certainly won't find time to spare when visiting Darwin!**

If you are looking for a pearl  
 Call in and see the  
 wonderful display at

The House of Pearls  
 Shop 4, Melaleuca on Mitchell,  
 52 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 Ph 08 8981 2088

